



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.roloma.org

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Experimental Levee Takes Shape

On April 9, 2015, the first of 70,000 native wetland plants and reeds were transplanted from individual containers into a nursery located on the treatment plant site. Over the following months, Save-the-Bay and its team of staff and volunteers have continued to nurture the seedlings in the outdoor nursery, which is adjacent to the experimental levee. This fall, Save-the-Bay will start planting the levee with those seedlings.

Unlike traditional levees, Oro Loma's experimental levee rises at a 1 to 30 slope rather than a traditional slope of 1 to 1. The levee will be made of a specialized mix of sand, soil, and organics and native plants and will further polish the treated water.

The experimental levee, and an eight-million gallon holding basin behind it, will provide additional water-holding capacity during periods of heavy rains. The project is 40% complete. The first phase of the \$9.1M project was completed

on June 30, 2015. The entire project is scheduled to take about two years to finish. Continued excavation to subgrade, installation of geotextile stabilizing fabric, and importation of approximately 17,000 cubic yards of fill, which gets mixed with existing onsite material, are all underway.

In addition to protecting the shoreline, the project has the potential to improve water quality in the Bay, while establishing a new habitat on the water's edge. Plants chosen for the project can remove excess nutrients from treated wastewater, reducing the potential for harmful algae blooms. The created habitat is important because it provides an upland refuge from rising seas.

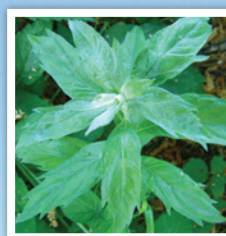
An open house is scheduled for November 14, 2015, as Save-the-Bay continues to transplant seedlings onto the levee. The public is invited to attend. Watch the District's website, www.roloma.org, for details.



Construction continues



Seedbeds



A native plant (Mugwort)



Seedling in nursery



A fleet of earth moving equipment mixes onsite material with imported fill.



Earth Day 2015 Poster Contest Winners Honored at Awards Ceremony

A festive ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 in the Titan Auditorium of the San Leandro Marina Community Center to honor the winners of the 21st annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest.

Over 1,800 students from schools across Oro Loma submitted entries in the contest, which was open to all Oro Loma Sanitary District students in grades K-12 attending a school that is served by Waste Management. The theme of this year's contest, "Recycle **RIGHT** in Oro Loma," asked students to show they knew the correct way to recycle in Oro Loma.

Students were notified they were winners on Earth Day, April 22, but it wasn't until the awards ceremony that they found out which prize they had won.

Prize categories included a Recycling Star Kindergarten group in which five students won \$100 each. Cash prizes of \$700 for First Place, \$500 for Second Place, \$300 for Third Place, and \$150 for Honorable Mention (two) were awarded in six grade groups from first to twelfth grades. Matching cash prizes were awarded to the winning students' schools. Schools that submitted eligible entries but had no winners received \$100 Participation Awards. Ten Certificate of Merit winners in the six grade groups received \$25 each.

In all, \$25,300 was awarded to students and schools in Oro Loma Sanitary District.

A complete list of winners with links to their posters can be found on the District's website, www.oroloma.org.



Winners in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2015 Poster Contest

Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2016 Poster Contest



The Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2016 Poster Contest, ALL-IN-ONE ORGANICS, Oro Loma Food Scraps Program, asks students to consider the advantages of the Oro Loma food scraps collection program and show how easy it is to participate. The contest starts January 19, 2016 and ends March 18, 2016.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper products make up most of the recyclable portion of what people throw away. At the landfill, food scraps take up valuable space.

By participating in the Oro Loma ALL-IN-ONE ORGANICS Food Scraps Program, food scraps and food-soiled paper products are sent to a composting facility, where they are turned into compost—a valuable resource used by landscapers and farmers. Compost returns nutrients to the soil and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. In addition, compost helps protect the soil and save water.

Food products such as fruit, vegetables, breads, cereal, dairy, meat (including bones), coffee grounds, filters and tea bags are all accepted in the program, as are food-soiled paper products including paper towels, plates, napkins, pizza boxes and paper lunch bags. Items that are not accepted include plastic (bags and Styrofoam), glass, metal, liquids and pet waste.

Collecting food scraps is easy. Here is all you need to do: collect food scraps in your kitchen; empty the collected scraps into your green waste cart along with garden trimmings; and set your green waste cart out for weekly collection.

Organics Collection Program in Schools

Food scraps collection has been introduced in the cafeterias of nine San Lorenzo Unified School District elementary schools. Thanks to all the students, administrators, staff, and custodians who are working hard to make the program a success!





Larry Olivan, Safety and Special Programs Administrator, holds the Burke Award for safety.

Plant Safety Awards

Earlier this year, Oro Loma Sanitary District won the 2014 CWEA San Francisco Bay Section Plant Safety Award, the 2014 CWEA State Plant Safety Award, and the 2015 Water Environment Federation (WEF) Burke Award for safety.

Oro Loma was selected for the Burke Safety Award because it ranked highest among all applicants in all categories.

Some aspects of the District's safety program that set it apart from other agencies are Oro Loma's outstanding safety training and records; disaster preparedness exercises performed twice each year; confined space rescue training completed three times each year; and the partnership with Alameda County Fire Department for use of the District's facilities and equipment in confined space training.

Congratulations for the extraordinary achievement and for the outstanding safety program!

What You Should Know About Lateral Repair

If you've ever experienced a sewer backup, you know how frustrating it can be. Who do you call?

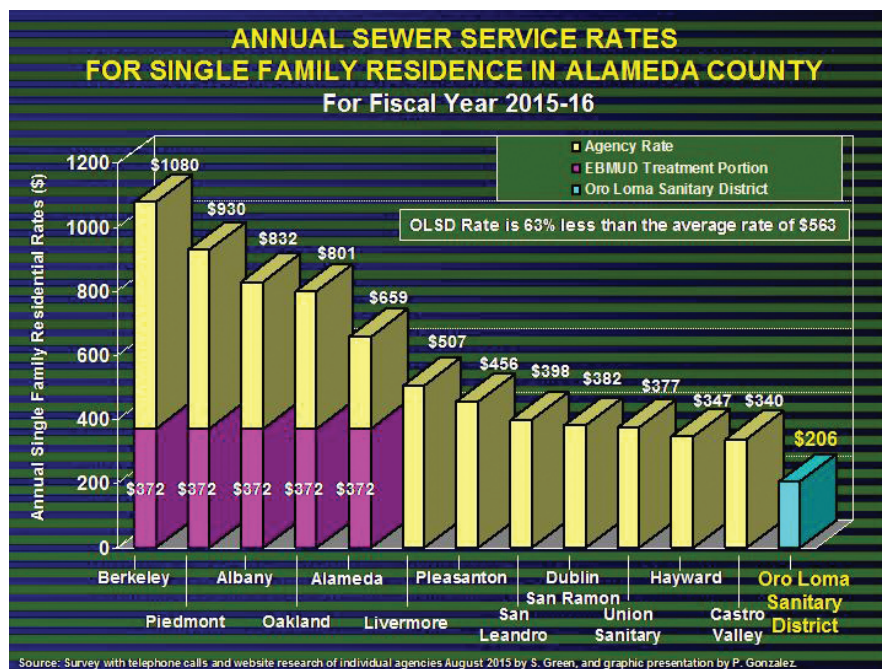
First, call us at (510) 276-4700 if you need help in identifying the problem. If your neighbors are also experiencing a backup, it may mean there is a stoppage in the main sewer line, which is an emergency. Immediately call the District, day or night, so a crew can come out to investigate.

If the backup is only in your home, the trouble is probably in your sewer lateral, the pipe that carries wastewater from your home to the sewer main. Property owners are responsible for their laterals up to and including the connection to the main. Roots or grease may be clogging the lateral, or the pipe may be broken. If you are unable to fix the problem yourself, you will need the services of a sewer cleaning service, a plumber, or sewer contractor. Be sure to check licenses and get several bids before starting repairs. Estimates can vary greatly. Don't be pressured into making a hasty decision.

Please call the District before your lateral is cleared, since whatever clogged your line may also clog the main.

Once your line is cleared, most plumbers can video the inside of your lateral. If you would like assistance in interpreting the video, bring a copy to the District office, and we will be happy to help.

Oro Loma Residential Sewer Rates Lowest in Alameda County!



WASTEWATER COLLECTION CORNER

Oro Loma's collection crews maintain nearly 273 miles of sanitary sewer. Please remember:

- Crews will only access your property if the District has an easement, and they need to service the sewer line.
- Collection personnel will never

ask to come into your home for any reason.

- Collection crews drive District vehicles, wear uniforms, and carry identification at all times.
- Photos of all collection crews are available at www.roloma.org under "Sewer Collection."



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US POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND CA
PERMIT NO. 544

Experimental
Levee Takes
Shape



Printed on recycled paper

Important Phone Numbers to Keep Handy

Oro Loma Sanitary District Office and
24/7 Emergency Response..... (510) 276-4700
Waste Management (510) 613-8710

Alameda County Recycling Hotline .. (877) STOPWASTE
Alameda County
Household Hazardous Waste (800) 606-6606

Spotlight on Excellence

RETIRED



Oro Loma Plant Operator II **Darrell Sorensen** retired on August 2, 2015, after 31 years of dedicated service. Most of Darrell's time was spent on the night shift as part of a crew

that works around-the-clock, seven days a week, to protect the environment by ensuring that the treatment plant is working at peak efficiency.

Darrell is the last of three long-tenured plant operators to retire. Together, Darrell Sorensen, Raul Saballos, and Glenn Bachelder had over 100 years of service with the District.

Invited to speak before the Board of Directors who was honoring him for his service, Darrell said that he enjoyed his time at Oro Loma, that it was a good place to work, and that he had seen many changes over his time with the District. A new Maintenance Department shop and improved nighttime lighting were among the welcomed additions that Darrell mentioned.

Now that Darrell has retired, he plans to "live the dream" as he moves to Montana. We thank Darrell for his service and wish him well.

NEW EMPLOYEE



Don Pride was hired as a Plant Operator II to fill the vacancy created by Darrell Sorensen's retirement. Don is already hard at work in a District that he described as "very impressive."

Don was previously with CH2M Hill, a Gilroy-based engineering and environmental consulting firm. The new Operator II has maintenance and lab experience, and a background that includes recycled water systems and nutrient removal.

Don realizes that he has big shoes to fill as he takes over Darrell Sorensen's position, but he looks forward to creating his own legacy at Oro Loma.

Plant Tours

Ever wonder how wastewater goes from sewage to water that can be safely discharged into the Bay? Do you know what a digester looks like or what a "biosolid" is? Here's your chance to find out.

The District offers free tours of the Oro Loma Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant to individuals and school groups in the community. To schedule a tour, call the District at (510) 276-4700 during regular business hours.

