The original treatment plant capacity of 20 million gallons of wastewater a day was reduced over time because of tightening environmental requirements on the plant's effluent quality standards.

Over the last 40 years, the District's ability to treat wastewater was essentially cut by 25%. The restored plant is now able to process 20 million gallons a day to the highest federal, state, and local standards. In addition to three new 120-foot diameter secondary clarifiers, the plant gained two new bar screens, an expanded influent pump station, a new chemically-enhanced primary treatment system, aeration basin modifications, bypass channel modifications, a new secondary solids pumping system, sludge heating improvements, and an extension of the existing disinfection channel.

The open house, in honor of the newly-restored plant, included exhibits of the District's sewer maintenance equipment, plant tours, and refreshments.

Spotlight on Excellence: Lacey Jiles

Lacey Jiles became the newest member of the Oro Loma staff on June 25. Her main duties are providing office support to Paul Zolfarelli, Director of Water Quality Services for Oro Loma. This includes database entry, correspondence, and generally keeping the office running. In addition, Lacey fills in as needed, providing administrative service for other Oro Loma departments.

Before coming to Oro Loma, Lacey worked for a private mortgage company. Lacey enjoys being with the District because of the people, whom she describes as being “great,” and she plans a long-term commitment.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Lacey still lives in the City, where she enjoys the support and love of a large family. She is a graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School in the City’s Sunset District, and attended Diablo Valley Community College.

In her free time, Lacey enjoys shopping—especially for shoes and purses. Finding that perfect item at a great price makes the hours of looking all worth it. Oro Loma’s newest employee also enjoys event planning, and has organized celebrations for many friends and family.

Help Keep Our Creeks and Bay Clean

When poured down the drain, Fat, Oil, or Grease (FOG) can clog household plumbing, the sewer lateral that connects a building to the sewer main, and even the main itself.

Blockages can cause laterals to back up into homes, resulting in messy and expensive cleanups and repairs. When sewer mains overflow in the street, untreated wastewater can run into parks and waterways, causing environmental damage and posing health risks.

You can avoid help sewer overflows, backups, and costly repairs if you:

- Pour all cooled cooking fats, oils, and grease that will harden (bacon grease, meat drippings) into an old milk carton, can, or container with a lid and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Mix small volumes of liquid grease with an absorbent material such as cat litter, place in a lidded container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Wipe down greasy pots, pans, or dishes with paper towels before washing. Dispose of towels in the garbage.
- Do not use warm water and soap to wash grease down the drain. Although the warm water may temporarily melt the grease, it recondenses into a solid as soon as it reaches the colder pipes below your drain.