



ORO LOMA NEWS

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Inside

- Contest Winners Honored at Awards Ceremony
- President's Message
- No Cactus, Palm Fronds, or Fruit
- Washington Street Sewer Project
- Spotlight on Excellence: Lacey Jiles
- Help Keep Our Creeks and Bay Clean

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Capacity Restoration Project Groundbreaking

A July 15, 2004 groundbreaking ceremony at the Oro Loma Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant on Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo signaled the start of an historic \$34 million plant capacity restoration project. The project—the largest in the District's 96-year history—was expected to be completed in the fall of 2007. On Saturday, June 2, 2007, at an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by representatives from Oro Loma Sanitary District and Castro Valley Sanitary District (which owns 25% of the plant) and the public, the project was officially declared complete and operational. The project was finished months ahead of schedule and under budget.

Continued on back page

Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project

The Oro Loma/Castro Valley Project was completed \$1,000,000 under budget & six months ahead of schedule

Construction Cost - Monterey Mechanical
\$24,755,000
Change Orders (3.25%) \$955,990
Design Services During Construction
\$750,000
Construction Management (In-house) \$1,300,000
Pre-design, Master Plan, etc. \$3,548,410
TOTAL: \$34,124,500

RAS/WAS PUMPS
The RAS/WAS structure houses miscellaneous pumps and control systems to properly balance the biological process. The pumps inside return good bugs into the wastewater treatment process.

PRIMARY CLARIFIERS
Prior to Construction

CEPT FACILITY
CEPT (Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment) is a treatment process that uses ferric chloride to help settle solids from the wastewater.

BOILER BUILDING
Prior to Construction

NEW DISINFECTION CHANNEL
The disinfection channels use sodium hypochlorite (bleach) to disinfect (kill) bacteria before the treated water enters San Francisco Bay. A second channel was added to increase capacity.

SECONDARY CLARIFIERS
The District added three new secondary clarifiers, which are the final settling tanks before disinfection and discharge of treated water into the Bay.

BARScreens
A second barscreen was added to provide additional protection against large debris (tree limbs, tree belts, and other garbage) entering into the treatment plant.

NEW INFLUENT PUMP
The District added a new, 35MGD pump to complement the four existing pumps and meet pumping requirements during heavy storms.



Clockwise from top: Poster shows new additions to the plant; Oro Loma and Castro Valley representatives and the public enjoy refreshments; Plant Operator Raul Saballos leads a plant tour; Ribbon-cutting ceremony officially launches the restored plant.



Contest Winners Honored at Awards Ceremony

The students knew they were winners, but they didn't know what they had won. Was it one of the two \$100 Honorable Mention awards or the \$200 Third Place prize? Maybe they had won Second Place with a \$300 prize or even the First Place prize of \$500.

Over 2,800 students from 29 schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District submitted posters in the thirteenth annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest. Students were asked to create posters based on the slogan, "Earth Day 1970-2007." In addition to those students winning cash prizes, 15 students in each grade group received Certificates of Merit for their excellent work in showing why Earth Day is important.

On Tuesday, May 22, at a festive awards ceremony in the Titan Auditorium of the Marina Community Center in San Leandro, the winning students found out what prizes they had won. Representatives from Oro Loma and Waste Management, students and their guests, school administrators, and government officials helped make the event one to remember.

First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention Awards were presented in each of six K-12 grade groups. Matching cash prizes were awarded to the students' schools. In addition, schools that submitted eligible posters but had no winners received \$100 Participation Awards. Prizes totaling \$7,200 were awarded to students, and a matching \$7,200 given to the students' schools. Participation Awards were given to ten schools, for a total of \$1,000. In all, \$15,400 was awarded to students and schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District. Arroyo High School (\$1,100), East Bay Arts (\$600), and Dayton Elementary School (\$600) were the top prize-winning schools.

Oro Loma Earth Day 2007 Poster Contest Winners

Prize		Student	School
K-1	1st	Theodora Buchanan	Thomas Jefferson Elementary
K-1	2nd	Elias Sosa	Calvary Lutheran
K-1	3rd	Sophie Tekle	Dayton Elementary
K-1	HM	Enrique de la Cruz	Calvary Lutheran
K-1	HM	Angel Tolentino	Dayton Elementary
2-3	1st	Maria Contreras	Del Rey Elementary
2-3	2nd	Ryan Le	Dayton Elementary
2-3	3rd	Lauren Avilla	St. Felicitas
2-3	HM	Amy Xie	Chinese Christian
2-3	HM	Karrin Huang	Community Christian
4-5	1st	Maiyi Huang	Grant Elementary
4-5	2nd	Lily Huang	Community Christian
4-5	3rd	Nathan Kok	Chinese Christian
4-5	HM	Sarah Silva	Calvary Lutheran
4-5	HM	Jessica Pham	Corvallis Elementary
6-8	1st	Beatrice Seifert	KIPP Summit Academy
6-8	2nd	Margaret Daly	Assumption
6-8	3rd	Nolan Fisher	Bohannon Middle School
6-8	HM	Meztli Montalvo	Edendale Middle School
6-8	HM	Mark David	Washington Manor
9-10	1st	Lupita Gonzalez	East Bay Arts
9-10	2nd	Anh Bui	Arroyo High School
9-10	3rd	Mable Huang	Arroyo High School
9-10	HM	Rachel Law	East Bay Arts
9-10	HM	Sefanaia Esera	San Leandro High School
11-12	1st	Christian Figueroa	Arroyo High School
11-12	2nd	Daniel Gonzalez	Royal Sunset High School
11-12	3rd	Rachel Green	Redwood Christian
11-12	HM	Eric Quach	Arroyo High School
11-12	HM	Se-Hee Lee	Redwood Christian



Clockwise from top left: Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2007 Poster Contest winners; Refreshments were enjoyed by all; Schools received matching prizes; Over 250 friends, family, and officials gathered to honor the 2007 winners.



P

resident's Message

This spring has been a time of celebration for Oro Loma.

On May 22nd, the 30 winners of the 13th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest were honored at an awards ceremony held at the Titan Auditorium of the Marina Community Center in San Leandro. Prizes for first, second, third place, and two honorable mentions were awarded to students in five grade groups, and matching prizes were presented to their schools. In total, the District awarded \$15,400 in prize money to the students and their schools.

The contest was open to all students attending grades K-12 in Oro Loma schools that use Waste Management for recycling services. I am pleased to announce that the Hayward Unified School District has just signed a contract with Waste Management for recycling services. Therefore, starting in 2008, the HUSD schools within Oro Loma will again be eligible to participate in the District's annual Earth Day Poster Contest! We eagerly look forward to seeing their posters in the 2008 contest.

On June 2nd, the District formally inaugurated its newly restored wastewater treatment plant. This was the date for the plant Open House, where customers were invited to join Oro Loma and Castro Valley representatives in touring the plant. The project, which restores the plant's ability to process 20 million gallons of wastewater a day to the highest environmental standards, went online in fall of 2006. This was more than six months ahead of schedule. The project also came in under budget—a true rarity in construction.

June 5th was also a day to celebrate. That was the date at which the Board officially voted to rescind a sewer rate increase approved in May 2003. This means no sewer rate increase this year, and that Oro Loma customers have the lowest sewer service rates in all of Alameda County!

The Oro Loma Board takes very seriously its commitment to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. Prudent fiscal planning, combined with the cost-savings realized when the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project was completed under budget, allowed the Board to rescind the sewer service rate increase.

No Cactus, Palm Fronds, or Fruit



Please do not put leaves from cactus plants or palm trees, or fruit that is not attached to tree branches in your green cart. These are considered garbage and must be placed in your trash cart. For a complete list of items that are accepted for recycling in your green cart go to www.oroloma.org.



Washington Avenue Trunk Sewer Project

The Washington Avenue sewer upgrade is now underway.

Trenching on Swenson, Alexandria, and Beatrice Streets was completed at the end of June, and work has begun on Grenda Street and Manor Boulevard. The affected streets will be closed for through traffic from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., while trenching is proceeding. Residents will be allowed controlled access during this time. The open trenches will be plated at night for unrestricted access. Trenching should take about five days on each street.

The project is necessary because some of the existing sewer mains have been in place since the 1950s and do not meet new capacity requirements. In addition, the 24-inch main that runs under the freeway is structurally unsound. In total, 5,600 feet of 24- and 30-inch pipe will be replaced with 2,800 feet of 48-inch pipe and 2,140 feet of 12-inch pipe. The existing pipes will be replaced with ones made of fiberglass-reinforced concrete. The new system will also increase the carrying capacity of the mains during winter storms.

In addition to going under the freeway, the project will require tunneling under the Estudillo Channel, where a major gas line runs.

The Washington Avenue Trunk Sewer Project ties the Bayfair trunk sewer to the Lewelling Blvd. trunk sewer, which were completed previously.

*Photo right:
Inspector monitoring the installation
of a manhole at Swenson and
Alexandria Streets.*

*Photo below:
Excavators installing 48-inch pipe
and compacting subgrade on
Swenson Street.*





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**Oro Loma
Celebrates the
Restored Plant
at an Open
House**

Open House continued from page 1

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.