



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

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www.oroloma.org

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Inside

- President's Message
- Unlimited Recycling for Residential Customers
- WM Earth Day Celebration
- Backflow Prevention Systems
- Solar Energy Project
- Food Scraps Recycling Is Coming to Oro Loma
- Sewer Permits
- Spotlight on Excellence
Chad McCarthy
- Pollution Prevention

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Seismic Upgrade to the Sewer System

The Hayward Fault crosses the pipe network of the Oro Loma Sanitary District in 13 different locations, including a 27-inch trunk line that carries over one quarter of the District's wastewater, and another 10-inch pipe that runs under Interstate 580. Because a major earthquake along the Hayward fault could cause a service disruption and potential health concerns, District staff initiated and constructed system improvements over the past nine months to reduce the risks posed to the citizens of its service area.

As a part of this effort, the District is installing manholes on both sides of critical fault crossings, and is replacing the portion of pipeline in between with pipes made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE). This material is much stronger and more flexible than the vitrified clay or cast iron pipes used in most fault crossings. In a major seismic event, the pipe will flex and stretch with the ground movement. The District is also upgrading the pipe/manhole connections with additional concrete and reinforced collars. The upgraded connection was designed by Oro Loma engineers to keep the pipe from pulling out of the manhole during a major seismic event.

The implemented design was significantly less expensive than alternative seismic systems offered commercially.

In addition to improvements at the crossings, the District developed a comprehensive tactical plan to deal with the effects of an earthquake. The plan includes emergency staffing, a fleet of portable generators, portable pumps, emergency communications, and an inventory of critical spare parts and critical chemicals. All of these efforts are performed as a part of the District's ongoing mission "To provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost."



View of special manhole showing reinforced collar around new HDPE pipe

Oro Loma Earth Day 2009 Poster Contest Winners to be Announced April 22



The 15th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest ended on March 20th. In this year's contest, "Recycling Rules!" students showed why recycling is important, and that they understood the rules for recycling in Oro Loma. Contest winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22. The exact placement of cash winners will be revealed at a festive awards ceremony on May 26th at the Marina Community Center.

Cash prizes of \$700 first place, \$500 second place, \$300 third place, and two Honorable Mentions of \$150 each will be awarded in six grade groups.

Last year, the District awarded students and their schools a total of \$27,300. Oro Loma is proud of its commitment to community education.

2 resident's Message

It has been nearly 20 years since the passage of State Assembly Bill 939 and Alameda County voter-approved Measure D, which worked together to establish a waste diversion goal of 50% at the State level and 75% within the County. Following the passage of these laws, municipalities like Oro Loma Sanitary District began offering separate green waste and recycling containers to customers, to divert materials from the landfill. Additionally, citizens have taken a greater interest in recycling, and many have changed their ways of living to match their beliefs.

Since the passage of AB939 and Measure D, the amount of material diverted from the landfill in Oro Loma Sanitary District has increased from a few percentages to 69%.

As expected, the first gains towards the 75% diversion goal were the easiest. Now, Oro Loma is working with its customers to achieve the last six percentage points towards the established goal. As a part of this effort, the Oro Loma Sanitary District Board voted to begin allowing food waste into the green waste bins beginning June 1, 2009. With the change, the material in your green waste bin will go to a compost facility and will be turned into a beneficial agricultural soil additive. The additional food waste diverted from your refuse cart should help Oro Loma reach its goal of 75% diversion. We look forward to providing you with the best service, and are counting on each citizen to do his or her part in achieving the diversion goal.

Unlimited Recycling Available for Residential Customers



Do you find that all your recycling is not fitting into your recycling cart? Unlimited recycling is available for residential customers. Just call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 and ask for a larger recycling cart at no cost. Thanks for your recycling efforts and keep up the good work!

Backflow Prevention Systems

We like to think that when we flush the toilet or empty the bathtub, that is the last we'll see of the wastewater that leaves our house. Generally, that is exactly what happens. Sometimes, though, homeowners find wastewater backing up through drains and toilets. If your lateral—the pipe that connects your home plumbing to the sewer main—is not far enough above the rim of the sewer manhole, and there is an extraordinarily high volume of water in the main line, or if there is a blockage downstream that forces sewage upstream, you could find sewage coming out of the drains in your house.

A Backflow Prevention System (BPS) prevents sewage from flowing back into a building should there be a blockage in the lateral or an overflow in the main sewer line. The system consists of two parts: the backwater check valve (to allow wastewater to only flow away from the structure) and the overflow device (to allow an emergency escape path for wastewater). Oro Loma requires a BPS on all new construction, on any replacement or major repair to a lateral, on all structures where the property is damaged by a blockage in the sewer main or lateral, in existing structures when additional plumbing fixtures are installed, or when the structure's floor area is increased by more than 25%. The BPS requirements are available in Section 5.5 of Ordinance 35-14 at <http://oroloma.org/services/permits/index>.

Earth Day

April 18, 2009, 10 am - 2 pm

Early Earth Day Celebration at
The Davis Street Transfer Station

2615 Davis Street, San Leandro

LEARN ABOUT WHERE YOUR MATERIAL GOES WHEN IT LEAVES
YOUR CURBSIDE. FIND OUT HOW RECYCLING WORKS. FUN AND
INFORMATIVE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

FREE RECYCLED PAINT, SUSTAINABLE DOOR PRIZES, DROP OFF OF ELECTRONICS, & BAGS OF COMPOST!

- Tours of the facility • Educational performance by EarthCapades • Green raffle prizes
- Bay-Friendly Gardening Resources • Green building resources • Hands-on activities for kids



Our Waste Reduction Partners

STOPWASTE.ORG
Reducing the Waste Stream for Alameda County



Contact Rebecca Jewell at 510-563-4214
www.dsgardencenter.com





Solar Energy Project

Work is progressing on the installation of the 500 Kilo-watt (kW) solar panel array by Renewable Technologies Incorporated (RTI). Most of the conduit has been installed underground, and the necessary transformers and inverters are on site.

Under an agreement between RTI and Oro Loma, the District will supply the land and RTI will be responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of the solar array. The District will purchase power produced by the array from RTI. The estimated savings for 2010 will be \$80,000. Staff expects a similar annual savings for the remaining life of the 20-year contract. Much of the savings comes from the PG&E rate schedule, which will allow the District to trade 1 kW of excess power during the day for approximately 2.5 kW during the night.

One time-saving construction innovation being employed involves the use of giant ground screws instead of cast-in-place concrete piles. The ground screws can be installed in minutes instead of days and are immediately usable. There is no need to wait days for concrete to cure. Ground screws are also easily removed or adjusted, if necessary, and have an expected life of 70 years. The screws have been used extensively in Europe and are in limited use on the East Coast.

The contract between RTI and Oro Loma gives the District the option to purchase the array after 20 years, should the District choose to do so.



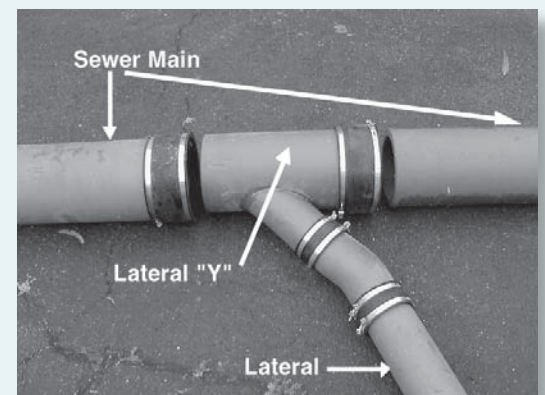
Ground screws being tested

Sewer Permits

Within the Oro Loma Sanitary District boundaries, property owners are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the private sanitary sewer laterals, which run from a point two feet beyond the outside face of the building foundation to the connection to the District's sanitary sewer main line, including the "Y" connection, tee fittings or tap. Routine cleaning of the lateral does not require a permit, but any repair, alteration, extension and replacement of the sewer line is subject to the District's permit requirements, even if there is a building or plumbing permit on file with the City or County. Sewer permits are required to make sure that the work complies with District standards, which insures the integrity of the collection system for all customers.

When any sewer work is performed without authorization by a sewer permit, the parcel owner or contractor is required to obtain a permit for that work, and pay double the normal permit and inspection fees. In addition, the parcel owner or contractor must provide the District full access to inspect the work that was done. All sewer work within the District must be completed in accordance with Ordinance No. 35-14. Please call (510) 276-4700 or visit www.oroloma.org for sewer permit questions and requirements.

Homeowners should check to see that their contractor has a valid license in one of the following classifications: "A" general engineering; "C-34" pipeline; "C-36" plumbing; or "C-42" sanitation systems. A "B" license is not sufficient. To check a contractor's license, go to www.cslb.ca.gov or call (800) 321-2752. Be sure that the contractor has obtained the necessary permit before work is started.



Property owners are responsible for repair and maintenance of their sewer lateral, up to and including the lateral "Y."

Food Scraps Recycling Is Coming to Oro Loma

All-in-One Organics Recycling will be available in Oro Loma as of June 1, 2009!

Food scraps and food-soiled paper are the largest single item in our waste stream—making up approximately 35% of what we throw away in Alameda County. With food scrap recycling, food and food-soiled paper are sent to a composting facility, which turns the waste into a valuable resource for landscapers and farmers.

Under the program, which is partially funded by STOPWASTE.ORG, all table scraps and food-soiled paper products can be placed into the green cart that is used for yard waste. A small green bucket may be provided to all single family homes and condos/apartments with four units or less to make the transfer of table scraps to the large green waste recycling cart easy and efficient.

More information on this project will follow. Until then, please continue placing ONLY yard waste in your green cart.





Oro Loma Sanitary District
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Seismic Upgrade
to the Sewer
System

Spotlight on Excellence Chad McCarthy

In January 2009, Chad McCarthy became the newest member of the Oro Loma team as a Utility Worker Trainee. Chad was selected from over 250 applicants.

Oro Loma's newest employee, who has a certificate in aircraft maintenance and who had worked eight years as an aircraft mechanic, was attracted to wastewater treatment in large part because of the field's environmental importance.

To prepare for his new career, Chad entered the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program (ROP). This program prepares students to become certified wastewater treatment operators. In addition to the ROP, Chad completed a volunteer internship with the San Leandro wastewater treatment plant. Working at a wastewater treatment facility convinced Chad that he had made the right career move. The work is challenging, the people in the industry are professionals, and there is great opportunity for growth.

With his background in mechanics, Chad has a lot to offer the Maintenance Department, but he is just as happy working in Operations. He is glad to do whatever he can to help out, and is looking forward to many years with Oro Loma in whatever capacity he is most needed.

Chad's family lives in the area, and Chad is a graduate of San Lorenzo High School. He plans to marry in August and continue to live nearby. In his spare time, Chad enjoys the outdoors, sports, and traveling.

Note: Since this was first written, Chad was promoted to Plant Operator I. Congratulations, Chad!



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Mercury

Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil. Once deposited, certain microorganisms can change mercury into methylmercury, a highly toxic compound that builds up in fish, shellfish and animals that eat fish. People who eat food with high levels of mercury risk harm to their brains, hearts, kidneys, lungs, and immune systems. Methylmercury in the bloodstream of unborn babies and young children may harm the developing nervous system, making the child less able to think and learn.

Mercury has been used to make household products including:

- **Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, high intensity discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium, and neon bulbs.**
- **Thermostats**—There is mercury inside the sealed glass "tilt switch" of old-style thermostats.
- **Electrical Switches and Relays**—These typically contain about 3.5 grams of mercury each. Mercury switches can be found in some chest freezers, pre-1972 washing machines, sump pumps, electric space heaters, clothes irons, silent light switches, automobile hood and trunk lights, and ABS brakes.
- **Pilot Light Sensors**—Mercury-containing switches are found in some gas appliances such as stoves, ovens, clothes dryers, water heaters, furnaces and space heaters.
- **Mercury Gauges**—Some gauges, such as barometers, manometers, blood pressure, and vacuum gauges contain mercury.
- **Mercury Added Novelties**—Examples include greeting cards that play music when opened; athletic shoes (made before 1997) with flashing lights in soles; and mercury maze games.
- **Mercury Fever Thermometers**—Mercury thermometers typically contain about 0.5 grams of mercury.

As Oro Loma customers, the greatest contribution you can make in preventing mercury from entering the environment is to keep it out of the sewer system and waterways. You can properly dispose of items containing mercury by bringing them to an Alameda County hazardous waste disposal site. Call (800) 606-6606 for locations and hours.