



ORO LOMA NEWS

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www.oroloma.org

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Oro Loma Sanitary District

Oro Loma Pays Off All Debt

On August 4, 2009, the Board approved redemption of the Oro Loma Sanitary District Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2003. On September 16, 2009, the District redeemed all outstanding bond principal in the amount of \$3,365,000, and paid off accrued interest from July 1 to September 16, 2009, in the amount of \$24,904.44. The District is now free of any debt!

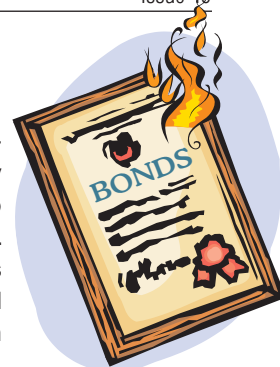
The bond proceeds, which were originally issued in 1991 and refinanced in 2003, were used to make significant improvements to the District's facilities, including the Bockman Avenue lift station, digester facility upgrades, solids dewatering upgrades, various sewer line rehabilitations, and Grant Avenue trunk sewer upgrades. The projects proved a good investment in the District's infrastructure.

Howard Kerr, the current Board President and a Board member when the bonds were signed, stated, "The decision to incur the debt was a difficult one at the time. The infrastructure investments we made were needed and have performed well, and we chose to reduce the total planned expenditures to less than a third of the approved amount. We chose not to move forward with proposals for land purchases and

a new administration facility. In the end, this frugality has helped us get back to operating on a cash basis. It is a great feeling. It feels similar to the day I burned the mortgage on my own home."

Oro Loma has managed its finances well over the years. The District maintains the lowest sewer service rates in Alameda County, while upholding elite standards of regulatory compliance. Also, Oro Loma prefunded its medical and retirement obligations, and now has no debt.

When asked how the District achieved this, General Manager Warner stated that, "The Board has established a high standard for the expenditure of each dollar. The goal is not to do the cheapest thing, but to provide the least cost over time. In advance of any project approval, staff presents the business case for the expenditure. The approach has limited a lot of 'nice to do' projects and infused the same scrutiny into smaller expenditures made by all staff on a daily basis. With this approach, we do not project the need for debt financing."



Food Scrap Recycling

Food scraps account for much of the trash collected in Alameda County. In addition to taking up room in the landfill, throwing out food scraps wastes an important resource that can be turned into rich compost for agriculture and landscaping. Now, Oro Loma residents can recycle food scraps easily and conveniently along with yard trimmings in their green recycling carts.

Collect food scraps in your small green pail, or in a cardboard milk or takeout container, then transfer the scraps to your green recycling cart. Line the green pail with newspaper for easy cleanup. Green recycling carts are serviced weekly.

Food scraps include:

Fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry, bones, seafood, egg shells, cheese, bread, beans, rice, pasta, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters, food-soiled paper and cardboard containers, paper plates, pizza boxes.

Do not include:

Plastic, glass, metal, styrofoam, liquids, kitty litter, animal waste.

Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 if you have any questions.



Remember, you can still use your garbage disposal unit for soft foods.