



ORO LOMA NEWS

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www.oro-loma.org

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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!

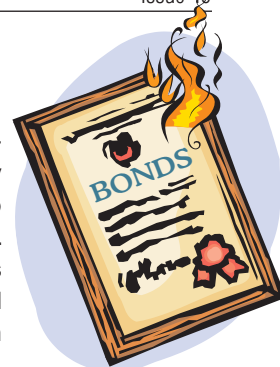
The bond proceeds, which were originally issued in 1991 and refinanced in 2003, were used to make significant improvements to the District's facilities, including the Bockman Avenue lift station, digester facility upgrades, solids dewatering upgrades, various sewer line rehabilitations, and Grant Avenue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

resident's Message

These are exciting times at Oro Loma! We have just paid off all our outstanding bonds—\$3,365,000. The District is debt free! In a period of financial uncertainty, with individuals and organizations finding themselves burdened with debt they can't repay, the District has been able to maintain a strong financial position. None of this would have been possible without the continued dedication and stewardship of our community, staff, and fellow Board members.

In June 2009, Oro Loma launched a food scrap recycling program. At that time, each single-family residence received a green pail and informational materials about the program. In October, you may see members of our staff looking in green waste containers set out at the curb for collection. The purpose of the audit is to measure the success of the food scrap program, and to comply with the grant requirements imposed by Alameda County Waste Management Authority. The residential food scrap collection effort helps the District meet the 75% diversion goal established by Alameda County voters. If you have any questions, please contact us at (510) 276-4700, or visit our website at www.oroloma.org.

In May 2009, Oro Loma honored the winners of the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2009 Poster Contest. On January 19, 2010, the 2010 contest kicks off. The 2010 contest marks the 16th year in a row that Oro Loma and Waste Management will have partnered to promote environmental awareness and support the students and schools in our District. The contest, whose theme is "It's Easy Being Green—Food Scrap Recycling," ends on March 19, 2010.

Lastly, this is a time of some uncertainty in our community, due to the upcoming flu season, and its potential severity. Be assured that Oro Loma has implemented all the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to keep our staff healthy and on the job. There is no need to be concerned—the plant will remain fully operational under any and all circumstances.

Safe Disposal of Medications



You can help keep potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals out of our water by safely disposing of unwanted medicines at one of three Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facilities. Directions to these sites—in Oakland, Hayward, and Livermore—and hours of operation are available at www.stop-waste.org or by calling (800) 606-6606. Old, expired, or unneeded prescription and non-prescription medications are accepted. Controlled substances are not accepted. For information on how to dispose of controlled substances, email HHW@acgov.org. Please bring proof of Alameda County residency when you visit the waste site. Pills may be poured into zip-locked plastic bags or left in their original containers. Be sure to remove your name and identifying information from all medicine labels.

Bulky Pickup Confirmation

Oro Loma residential customers are entitled to two free bulky waste pickups per calendar year. To schedule a pickup, call (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance. You will receive a postcard with a confirmation number. Call back if you do not receive a postcard.

A list of what is accepted for pickup, and the correct way to place items out for collection, is available on the Oro Loma website, www.oroloma.org.

Please Slow Down

Yes, the garbage and recycling trucks are out in the morning picking up trash and recycling—just when you need to get somewhere. And, yes, they need to go slowly and stop often. But, please, don't race around them. By slowing down, you can prevent a tragic accident. The garbage and recycling truck operators thank you.

Garbage Rate Increase

The District's agreement with Waste Management provides for annual garbage rate adjustments for customers, based on a percentage of the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus any pass-through fees imposed by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. Below are the new garbage rates, with a comparison to the 2008-2009 charges. Residential recycling and green waste fees are unchanged. The rates for the City of San Leandro are higher due to the additional franchise fee imposed on Waste Management by the City.

Residential Unincorporated Alameda County and the portion of Hayward serviced by Oro Loma

	2008-2009 rate	2009-2010 rate	Increase
20-Gallon	\$ 5.88	\$ 5.98	\$0.10/month
32-Gallon	\$11.75	\$11.94	\$0.19/month
64-Gallon	\$23.52	\$23.91	\$0.39/month
96-Gallon	\$35.27	\$35.85	\$0.58/month

Residential portion of the City of San Leandro serviced by Oro Loma

	2008-2009 rate	2009-2010 rate	Increase
20-Gallon	\$ 6.68	\$ 6.80	\$0.12/month
32-Gallon	\$13.38	\$13.62	\$0.24/month
64-Gallon	\$26.75	\$27.22	\$0.47/month
96-Gallon	\$40.13	\$40.84	\$0.71/month

Commercial and industrial customers (garbage and recycling):

Unincorporated Alameda County and the portion of Hayward serviced by Oro Loma increased by 1.64%

The portion of City of San Leandro serviced by Oro Loma increased by 1.76%

A complete list of rates is available at www.oroloma.org.

Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2009 Poster Contest Winners

A festive ceremony was held in the Titan Auditorium of the Marina Community Center in San Leandro on Tuesday, May 26, to honor the winners of the 15th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest.

Close to 3,000 students from 32 schools submitted entries in the contest, which is open to all students attending grades K-12 in the Oro Loma Sanitary District. The theme of this year's contest was, "Recycling Rules!"

Winning students were awarded cash prizes of \$700 for First Place, \$500 for Second Place, \$300 for Third Place, and \$150 Honorable Mention (two awarded) in each of six K-12 grade groups. The winning students' schools also received matching cash prizes.

Students found out they were cash winners on Earth Day, April 22, but it wasn't until the awards ceremony on May 26 that they found out which prize they had won.

Prizes totaling \$10,800 were awarded to students and an equal \$10,800 given to the students' schools. Schools that submitted eligible posters, but had no winners, received \$100 Participation Awards for a total of \$1,500. In all, \$23,100 was awarded to students and schools in Oro Loma Sanitary District.

Chinese Christian School (\$2,300) and Kipp King Collegiate High School (\$1,000) were the top prize-winning schools. St. Joachim's School and Arroyo High School were tied for third place at \$800 each.



Free Oro Loma 2009-2010 Calendars

Free Oro Loma 15-month 2009-2010 calendars will be delivered to schools throughout the District at the end of September. Calendars may also be picked up at the District office on Grant Avenue.

This year's calendar has been re-designed to display all the winning posters from the 2009 contest.



2009 Poster Contest Winners

Grade	Prize	Student
K-1	1st	Demigail Galvez
	2nd	Anessa Freitas
	3rd	Sonali Tandel
	HM	Eric Lee
	HM	Elizabeth Macoco
2-3	1st	Adam Sanchez
	2nd	Katelyn Melkonians
	3rd	Sun Hwa Schlaepfer
	HM	Anela Basic
	HM	Gianella Borcean
4-5	1st	Jenny Mo
	2nd	Jordan Frye
	3rd	Jessica Frye
	HM	Kelly Yang
	HM	Alicia Arrizon
6-8	1st	Elena Aker
	2nd	Maiyi Huang
	3rd	Hannah Fong
	HM	Jonathan Fan
	HM	Sarah Silva
9-10	1st	Amy Sit
	2nd	Yini Wang
	3rd	Beatrice Seifert
	HM	Jeffrey Mach
	HM	Paula Mo
11-12	1st	Rachel Law
	2nd	Mable Huang
	3rd	Maellene De Los Santos
	HM	Benfie Liu
	HM	Heather Tom

Oro Loma/Waste Management 2010 Poster Contest

For 2010, we are asking students to show how easy and beneficial Oro Loma's food scrap recycling program is. The contest starts January 19, 2010 and ends March 19, 2010. It is free and open to all students in grades K-12 who attend schools within the Oro Loma Sanitary District. In order to feature all the winning posters in the 2010-2011 calendars, all entries in the 2010 poster contest **must** be in the horizontal (landscape) orientation.





Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue
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**Oro Loma
Pays Off
All
Debt**

Spotlight on Excellence Sara Burke

You could say that wastewater treatment is a family business for Sara Burke—her husband works as a chemist at a water pollution control plant, and one of her brothers is a wastewater treatment plant operator.

Sara was working for a newspaper after receiving her BA in Communications when another brother, who is the director of a biotech firm, suggested she go back to college for a degree in science. Sara took his advice and acquired her second degree, a BS in microbiology. This led Sara to her own career in wastewater, which she has been pursuing for the past six years, first with a private company, then with South Bayside System Authority. All these years, Sara has used her degree in science to work as a wastewater laboratory analyst. Her involvement and efforts in the field were recognized in 2008, when Sara received the “Laboratory Person of the Year Award” from the California Water Environment Association.

Now at Oro Loma, Sara replaces Al Camisa, who retired as the District's chemist after 40 years. In addition to monitoring the solids' content at various stages in the wastewater treatment process to make sure that the plant is producing safe effluent, Sara ensures that all the sampling is done to comply with the District's stringent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

Before applying for the position, Sara made sure she wanted to work at the District, by requesting a tour of the plant. That same day, impressed with what she saw, Sara submitted her application for Oro Loma's vacant chemist position.

As a one-person lab, Sara has to handle all aspects of the chemist's job, from sample collection to testing and reporting. She feels confident in her ability, and has the support of the plant personnel. Her goal is to maintain an efficient lab, and she sees her future continuing with the District.

In her free time, Sara likes to cook, bike, and play bocce ball.



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Mercury Switch Thermostat Recycling

Many older mechanical thermostats contain one or more mercury switches. Each of these switches contains approximately 2.5 grams of mercury. If mercury thermostats are thrown in the trash, mercury ends up in the landfill, where it can contaminate groundwater, streams, and the Bay.

Working through the Thermostat Recycling Corporation, Oro Loma now accepts for recycling thermostats that contain mercury. Residents of the District can bring their thermostats to the Grant Avenue office during normal business hours for proper handling and disposal. Note that this special program is only for thermostats that contain mercury. Thermometers will not be accepted.

To find out if your thermostat uses a mercury switch, carefully remove the cover of the thermostat. If it contains mercury, you will see a small glass tube with silver metallic liquid attached to the thermostat.



Dental Amalgam Program

Dental amalgam fillings contain up to 50% mercury, in addition to smaller quantities of silver, zinc, copper, and tin. Amalgam waste generated at dental offices poses a particular pollution concern for San Francisco Bay.

Oro Loma's updated Pretreatment Ordinance includes specific requirements for handling amalgam waste. Key changes to those regulations require dentists that remove or replace amalgam fillings to practice best management practices for amalgam handling and install an ISO 11143 certified amalgam separator device.

Dental offices should download and review the OLSD Dental Program Brochure from www.roloma.org. A training flyer and other information is available at <http://www.baywise.org>.

