



ORO LOMA NEWS

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www.roloma.org

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Your Toilet Is Not a Trash Can

Cleaning and disinfecting wipes, moist towelettes, personal hygiene wipes, baby wipes—they all are “disposable,” so why not flush them down the toilet? Quite simply, because disposing of such items in the toilet—even those labeled “flushable”—instead of in the trash causes big problems, both for the District and for the individual homeowner.

Mounds of disposable wipes clog sewer lines, pumps, and lift stations. They can cause sewer backups and damage plant equipment. Clearing wipes from the wastewater stream is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Even dental floss flushed down the toilet can cause problems. Dental floss is very strong and durable. It can get tangled up in pumps and equipment, or worsen minor clogs within pipes by “binding” materials together.

These items are also a big problem for property owners' home plumbing and sewer laterals, which are smaller in diameter and more susceptible to clogs.

The sewer system is not designed for disposable wipes, dental floss, or similar items. Sewer clogs caused by these items can result in considerable cleanup expense and potential harm to our environment.

Please don't use your toilet as a trash can! Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down your toilet. Put disposable wipes, dental floss, and similar items in the trash, where they belong.



“Disposable” wipes that are flushed down the toilet must be removed so that they do not clog plant equipment.

President's Message

The District's mission is to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. The lowest possible cost side is easily measured, and is what Oro Loma most often receives accolades for. The rate summary below demonstrates this. Oro Loma's sewer service rate is 59% less than the average for providers in Alameda County.

What is often lost is how well the District accomplishes the other half of its mission. As an example, in an era of computerized voices and dial by number directories, the District still answers the phone on the first or second ring, with a real person, who is knowledgeable about the District and committed to help.

In the collection system, the District excels in many categories. On average, the District cleans its entire network of 280 miles of pipes every nine months. While many agencies are working on the first video inspection of their systems, the District is nearing completion of its third. The practice allows the District to find problems before they find

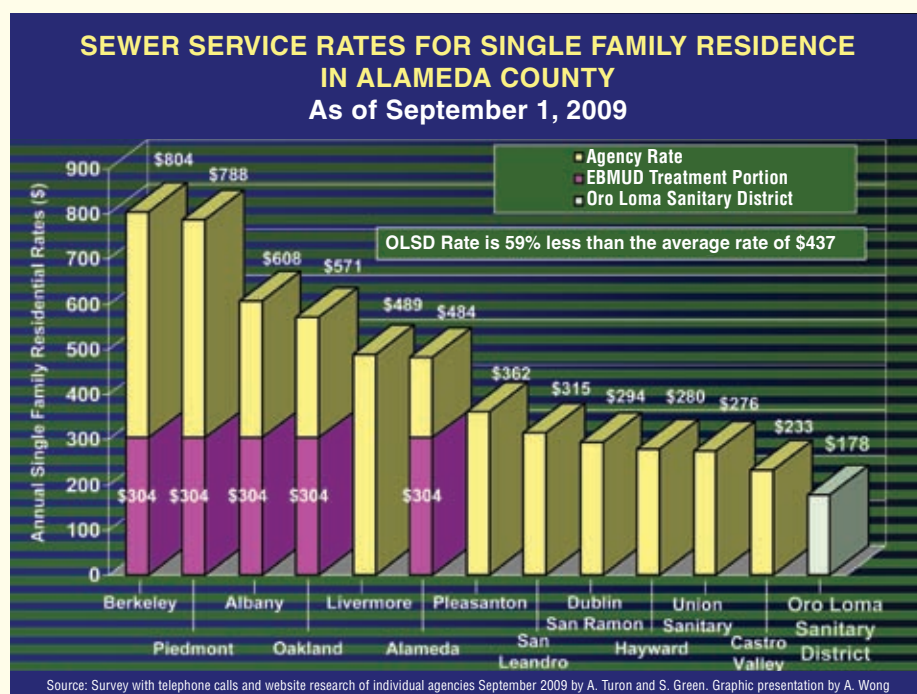
us. These practices and the commitment of our crews have resulted in a sewer overflow rate approximately one fifth of the industry average.

In the plant, the District has operated without a permit violation for over five years. Over the past two years, the District has reduced its power requirements by 15% and is working to become 100% self sustaining from renewable energy sources within two years.

The District is committed to providing excellent service at a low cost. As the front page article indicates, we need your help. There is a growing use of disposable wipes in the home. These wipes are distinct from toilet paper in that they do not break down in the collection system. To maintain our high level of service and to protect from sewer spills, we are asking that you dispose of these in the trash receptacle.

Thank you and Happy Holidays. We look forward to another year of service to the citizens of Oro Loma.

Oro Loma residential sewer rates are still the lowest in Alameda County!



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Safe Disposal of Medical Sharps



Home-generated needles and other medical sharps that are thrown into household waste or flushed down the toilet present a great risk to sanitation and sewage treatment workers. Used needles, syringes, and lancets can injure people and spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and syphilis. Since all used needles and syringes may carry disease, anyone incurring a needle stick injury must undergo expensive medical testing and treatment in addition to worrying about his/her health.

Alameda County residents can dispose of their own medical sharps waste for free at any of Alameda County's Household Hazardous Waste facilities. Proof of Alameda County residency is required and only home-generated sharps in approved containers will be accepted.

Approved sharps containers are available from medical providers and most chain pharmacies and drugstores, as well as some discount warehouse stores. Follow instructions for filling and sealing, and then bring the container to a Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Keep the container separate from any other waste and let the greeter know you have sharps with you when you arrive.

For further information, visit www.acgov.org/aceh/solid/diabetic.pdf. For a household hazardous waste site schedule, visit www.stopwaste.org, call 510-670-6460.

To find out more about your options for the proper disposal of medical sharps, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at (800) 643-1643 or visit www.safeneedledisposal.org

Helpful Reminders

California Universal Waste

Drop off fluorescent tubes, electronic devices, mercury thermostats, batteries, and other universal waste at e-waste collection events or at household hazardous waste sites.

Collection Day

If your collection days are on Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1, your collections will be on Saturday, December 26, and Saturday, January 2.

Bulky Pickup

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. Call back if you do not receive a confirmation postcard. Bulky pickup is suspended January 4-15, 2010. Visit www.roloma.org for more information.

2010 Recycling Schedules

The 2010 recycling schedules are now in the mail and posted at www.roloma.org.

MAKE THIS A GREEN HOLIDAY

This holiday, don't forget your role in maintaining a healthy environment. Here are some ways to make the season environmentally-friendly:

1. Buy wrapping paper made with recycled content.
2. Save used wrapping paper and reuse it next year.
3. Make your own gift wrap from butcher paper, reused brown paper bags, newspapers, and the funny pages.
4. Buy baskets at garage sales and local thrift stores to fill with homemade treats.
5. Make reusable gift sacks from scrap cloth.
6. Or don't give packages at all. Instead, give certificates for services like car washing or baby sitting.

Remember to recycle your green holiday tree:

- Dates: January 4-15, 2010.
- Accepted: Trees 6 ft. and under or cut into 6-foot lengths.
- NO flocking, tinsel, ornaments, tree stands, or nails.
- Place tree next to your green cart on your regular collection day.
- Bulky pickup is suspended during the holiday tree pickup period.

For further information, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.



Food Scrap Recycling

Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2010 Poster Contest

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN—Food Scrap Recycling

For 2010, students must 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 Oro Loma Sanitary District. Prizes are as follows: First Place \$700; Second Place \$500; Third Place \$300; Honorable Mention (2) \$150. Schools receive matching funds. In order to feature all the winning posters in the 2010-2011 calendars, all entries in the 2010 poster contest **must** be in a horizontal (landscape) orientation. **For more information, visit www.roloma.org or call (510) 276-4700.**

Food waste is the largest single item in the waste stream going to landfills. When food scraps and food-soiled paper products are combined with yard waste, food scraps can be processed into rich compost material for gardening, landscaping and farming. Participation in the Food Scrap Recycling Program helps the community and the environment! Separating food scraps from garbage is as easy as 1-2-3. *Remember, you can still use your garbage disposal unit for soft foods.* **Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 with questions.**

Oro Loma residents send food scraps to compost instead of landfill!

1

COLLECT

Collect food scraps and food-soiled paper in your kitchen pail.



2

EMPTY

Empty food scraps pail into your green waste cart along with yard trimmings.



3

SET OUT

Place your green cart at the curb for weekly pickup.





Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND CA
PERMIT NO. 591



Printed on recycled paper

Disposable Wipes
Clog Plant
Equipment
and Sewer
Lines

Introducing... Rob Fletcher

Nine months ago, Rob Fletcher became Oro Loma's newest Utility Worker Trainee. As such, Rob helps District mechanics perform preventative maintenance and repair on plant equipment and vehicles. Although his training and experience is mainly in mechanics, Rob is also gaining the plumbing and electrical experience he'll need as he advances through the Plant Maintenance Certification process.



Right now, Rob is studying through the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) to attain his Mechanical Technologist Grade 1 Certificate.

Before coming to Oro Loma, Rob worked for several years as an auto mechanic, a trade he learned at Clayton Valley High School and Diablo Valley Community College. Rob much prefers his present assignment, as it allows him to work outdoors in an environmentally-important field, with a group of highly-trained professionals. Being a mechanic at heart, Rob is particularly impressed with the District's co-generation plant, which uses methane produced by the digesters to provide over 90% of the wastewater treatment plant's energy needs.

In his spare time, Rob likes to play hockey and work on cars. He sees himself staying with Oro Loma well into the future, always learning something new.

Davis Street Recycling and Transfer Station

Do you ever wonder what happens to all that recycling and green waste you put out for collection? It all goes to Waste Management's Davis Street Recycling and Transfer Station at 2615 Davis Street in San Leandro. There, recyclable materials are sorted, bundled, baled, and compacted before being taken away to be made into new products. Green waste, including food scraps, is put through a grinder and then sent to a composting facility in the Central Valley where, after seven to ten weeks, it becomes nutrient-rich compost.

The Davis Street Recycling Center is open to residents for unlimited free drop off of cardboard, newspaper, mixed office paper, mixed household paper, aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, scrap steel and aluminum, and foam carpet pads. Residents may also recycle up to five gallons of used motor oil. Computer monitors, laptop computers, and televisions may be dropped off without charge. The facility buys back certain items, such as cans and bottles with California redemption value. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For a complete list of materials accepted at the transfer station and for a rate sheet, visit www.dsgardencenter.com/index.asp. While there, be sure to check out the "Recycling Fact Sheet" to see where all that recycling eventually ends up. The phone number for the Davis Street Recycling and Transfer Station is (510) 638-2303.

