



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

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[www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org)

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## Big Storm? No Problem!

One of the greatest challenges a wastewater service provider faces is a big winter storm. Storms present a challenge because a fraction of rainwater falling on the ground works its way through the soil and eventually seeps into pipe joints or defects in the pipe system. This excess water causes flows to increase above their typical level, which stresses the pipe network and associated treatment capacity. Part of the District's role in managing the system is to find ways to limit the amount of infiltration and to provide sufficient capacity for any increases that occur.

**Oro Loma is proud to say that during the recent heavy rains, the District did not have one single overflow or discharge of untreated or partially-treated wastewater!**

In 2007, Oro Loma completed the largest project in the District's 98-year history—the Capacity Restoration Project. This restored the plant's capacity to treat an average of 20 million gallons of wastewater per day, and up to 106 million gallons per day during heavy flows, all to the highest federal, state, and regional standards. During the January rains, the plant recorded an instantaneous peak flowrate of 77 million gallons, a volume well within the restored plant's wet weather capacity. Staff prepares for rain events by keeping all equipment in proper operating conditions, practicing preventative maintenance, and having operations and maintenance personnel available if needed.

Oro Loma, like most Bay Area sanitary districts, has a wastewater collection system that is separate from the stormwater collection system. In addition to rainwater that seeps into the District's mains, some of the increase in water flow during wet weather comes from cracked home laterals and from rain gutters that are illegally connected to the sewer system. You can help decrease water infiltration into the wastewater collection system by keeping your home lateral in good repair and by being sure not to connect storm gutters or drains to the sewer system.

*Oro Loma is one of five sanitary districts that make up the East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA). Fully treated wastewater is dechlorinated and discharged deep into San Francisco Bay. The EBDA surge tower can be seen here next to the Oro Loma treatment plant.*



## POLLUTION PREVENTION

### Dental Amalgam Program Update

#### District to Acknowledge Best Management Practices

Nearly all dental offices in the District are in the process of installing amalgam separators and training their staffs on best management practices for amalgam handling. Oro Loma wishes to thank them for their participation. Once an office has completed all program requirements, including installing an approved amalgam separator, and has passed a District inspection, it will be awarded a certificate that acknowledges the efforts to reduce mercury pollution in San Francisco Bay. The certificate is suitable for framing.



### Copper Pollution Prevention

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), a committee of the Bay Area Clean Water Association (BACWA), has for many years recognized copper as a major source of water pollution.

Too much copper in the wastewater stream can upset the delicate balance sewage treatment plants need to efficiently clean wastewater. In addition, sludge (solids removed during the wastewater treatment process) that is high in copper is considered a hazardous waste. It is difficult and expensive to dispose of such waste.

Sources of copper in the wastewater stream include copper piping corrosion, industrial copper use, cooling towers, printing, and vehicle servicing, such as replacing brake pads.

An excellent website to find best management practices regarding copper sources is Santa Clara Valley's urban runoff pollution prevention site at [http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/cu\\_clearinghouse\\_web/cu\\_source.htm](http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/cu_clearinghouse_web/cu_source.htm).



*Copper reduction helps Oro Loma continue to meet strict discharge regulations.*

## Helpful Reminders

### FOG Doesn't Belong in Your Drain

Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) can clog household plumbing and lead to sewer backups and overflows. Never pour fats, oil, or grease down the drain. Instead, use a non-recyclable container to collect and then dispose of this material in the trash.

#### Practice these Green Tips:

- Use a water bottle instead of buying bottled water.
- Switch from paper towels to reusable micro-fiber towels.
- Choose environmentally-friendly cleaning products instead of harsh chemicals. The web is a great resource for making your own easy, effective, and inexpensive alternatives, including those on [http://housekeeping.about.com/od/environment/Environmental\\_Cleaning\\_Solutions.htm](http://housekeeping.about.com/od/environment/Environmental_Cleaning_Solutions.htm).

#### Cart Etiquette

- When you place your carts out for pickup, please be sure not to block pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- Remember to leave at least a one-foot space on either side of your recycling cart, so the collection truck's automatic claw can grasp and empty the cart.
- Once your carts have been emptied, please retrieve them from the curb and store them in a safe place out of sight of your neighbors.

### Choose the Size That's Right for You



Do you find that since you are recycling food scraps you never fill up your garbage cart anymore? Or, has your family grown and you are now having a hard time getting all your garbage to fit into your burgundy cart and still close the lid? Waste Management offers residential garbage carts in four sizes—20, 32, 64, and 96 gallon. Downsizing can save you money on your garbage bill, while by upsizing, you can avoid additional charges for overfilling your cart.

What about your green waste and recycling carts? Are they large enough to meet your needs? There is no additional cost for a larger green waste or recycling cart, and there will be no increase in your garbage bill for the service.

Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 if you need to change your garbage service or to order larger green waste or recycling carts.



## There's a Lot Going On Down There

One of the biggest challenges for a wastewater service provider is the long term renewal and replacement of the existing collection and treatment assets. On the collection system side, Oro Loma Sanitary District has been entrusted to manage 60 special structures, 14 pump stations, 6,015 manholes, and approximately 300 miles of pipe on behalf of the citizens it serves.

The first step in the renewal and replacement process is to inventory and assess the condition of existing assets. Once this step is complete, Oro Loma staff identifies those areas that require rehabilitation. This year, the District will be replacing nearly two miles of its 300 miles of sewer lines. The project, which is called the 2010 Sewer Line Replacement Project, will be sent to bid this month.

The 2010 Sewer Line Replacement Project will rehabilitate approximately 10,111 feet of pipelines along easements and streets in Hayward, on or adjacent to D Street, E Street, 5th Street, Quinn Lane, Calais Court, Zorro Court, Sally Creek Circle, Harrington Lane, 7th Street,

Panda Way, Vermont Street, 2nd Street, and Patricia Court. Staff is currently in the process of obtaining permission from property owners to conduct work adjacent to the easements.

The final construction cost estimate is \$1,500,000, an amount that is within the combined budgeted amounts for fiscal years 2009/10 and 2010/11. The Construction Committee reviewed the project at its February 10, 2010 meeting and concurred with the recommendation to send the project to bid. Bids are due on March 25, 2010, at 2:00 pm.

Much of the project will entail the trenchless replacement of smaller diameter pipe with pipe of a larger diameter. Trenchless technology minimizes open cutting, and is therefore less disruptive than open trench line replacement. This improved technology pulls a new pipe through the old pipe and, in many cases, the newly installed pipe is larger than the old. New pipe sections are made of very thick HDPE plastic, and sections are fused together to form a continuous pipe that will not allow rainwater or groundwater to leak into the sewer pipes.

*Sections of HDPE pipe are fused together to form one long continuous pipe. This eliminates the need for joints in the sewer main.*





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Big Storm?  
No Problem!

## No Plastic Bags in Green Waste Cart

Oro Loma customers continue to show their concern for their community and the environment by segregating food scraps from their regular garbage and placing the scraps in their green waste carts. Unfortunately, some people are putting their food scraps in plastic bags before placing them in the green waste cart. When this happens, everything in the green waste cart—food scraps and green waste—must be considered garbage and sent to the landfill, thus wasting a valuable resource.

If dumping food scraps directly into your green waste cart feels too messy, you can collect them in empty cardboard milk or juice containers, cardboard takeout boxes, or cardboard ice cream cartons. All of these can go into your green waste cart together with the food scraps. If you like, you can also use paper bags or folded newspapers to collect your food scraps before placing them in your green waste cart. For more information on the Oro Loma Food Scrap Recycling Program, go to [www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org). And remember, *you still can use your kitchen garbage disposal unit for soft foods.*

### 1 COLLECT

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



No Plastic Bags!

### 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.



## Earth Day 2010 Poster Contest Ends March 19!

If you hurry, there is still time to submit your poster in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2010 Poster Contest.



Food Scrap Recycling

The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 who attend a school within Oro Loma Sanitary District that is serviced by Waste Management.

By illustrating how easy and important the food scrap recycling program is, you may win one of the following prizes: First Place, \$700; Second Place, \$500; Third Place, \$300; Honorable Mention (2), \$150. There are six grade groups, and all prizes will be awarded in all grade groups. Schools earn matching cash prizes, and all winners will be featured in the 2010-2011 15-month Oro Loma calendar.

For contest information, including a list of eligible schools and an entry form, and for information on the food scrap recycling program, visit [www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org).

Winners will be announced on the District's website on Earth Day, April 22. The exact placement of cash winners will be revealed at a festive awards ceremony to be held at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro, on May 25, 2010.