



ORO LOMA NEWS

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www.oro-loma.org

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Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2010 Poster Contest Winners

A festive ceremony was held in the Titan Auditorium of the Marina Community Center in San Leandro on Tuesday, May 25, to honor the winners of the 16th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest.

Close to 3,000 students from 33 schools submitted entries in the contest, which was open to all Oro Loma Sanitary District students in grades K-12 attending a school that is served by Waste Management. The theme of this year's contest, "It's Easy Being Green—Food Scrap Recycling," highlighted Oro Loma's new food scrap recycling program.

Winning students were awarded cash prizes of \$700 for First Place, \$500 for Second Place, \$300 for Third Place, and \$150 for 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 25 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, were given a \$100 Participation Award, for a total of \$1,600. In all, \$23,200 was awarded to students and schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District.

Del Rey Elementary School (\$1,400), Calvary Lutheran School (\$1,300), and Redwood Christian School (\$1,200) were the top three winning schools.

A complete list of winning students and prizes with links to their posters is available online at www.oro-loma.org.



POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dental Amalgam Program Update

Close to 50% of dentists with offices in Oro Loma have already installed amalgam separators and have passed an amalgam handling inspection. These dentists have been awarded certificates that acknowledge their efforts to reduce mercury pollution in San Francisco Bay. All dental offices are required to install the separators by the end of this year.



Safe Use and Disposal of Pesticides

Along with longer days and hot weather, summer brings out the bugs. It's only natural to want to get rid of these biting, stinging, garden-destroying pests. But even pesticides that are applied according to label directions can harm the environment. Whenever possible, use "green" alternatives such as homemade sprays of water, oil and liquid soap to treat these invaders, or physically remove the plant pests. When all else fails and you need to turn to commercial pesticides, consider the following:

- Choose a pesticide that is specific to the plant and pest you want to treat.
- Avoid aerosols.
- Buy ready-to-use products rather than concentrates.
- Carefully read and follow all instructions.
- Wear protective gear.
- Store pesticides in their original containers and away from children and pets.
- Never remove labels.



For safe and legal disposal of pesticides:

- NEVER pour pesticides down the drain.
- NEVER throw partially used pesticide containers into the trash.
- ALWAYS take unwanted pesticides to a Hazardous Waste Facility.

Helpful Reminders

Flush Green:

Protect water quality by flushing only toilet paper in the toilet.

Plastic Bag Recycling:

Recycle plastic bags and plastic wrapping by bundling them into one plastic bag and self-tying. Place in recycling cart for pick-up every other week.

Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters

Recycle up to two gallons of used motor oil and oil filters every week curbside. Call (510) 613-8710 for a free used oil and filters recycling kit.

President's Message

Great news! After lowering sewer service rates in fiscal year 2008/09, the Oro Loma Board has chosen to hold rates flat for a second year! As such, the District is not increasing the sewer service rates for any of its customers in 2010/11. A local newspaper recently announced increases in San Leandro, without making a distinction between San Leandro and Oro Loma customers. I want to take this opportunity to assure the San Leandro residents serviced by Oro Loma that they will not see an increase in sewer service rates this year!

In other news, in June 2009, the District implemented a food scrap recycling program. Since then, the amount of green waste and food scraps collected in Oro Loma has increased by 29%! We thank you for participating in the program and helping us inch closer to the voter-approved target of diverting 75% of materials away from the landfill.

The District continues to pursue the goal of self-producing 100% of its power from renewable energy sources. Oro Loma recently concluded a pilot grease-receiving study, which included the temporary installation of a grease-receiving tank and feed pump at the treatment plant. The study showed that, by accommodating grease from restaurants in the service area, the District could significantly increase the production of digester gas, which is then used to produce electricity. Based on these results, Oro Loma is moving forward with the installation of a permanent grease-receiving facility.

Along with the grease-receiving facility, the District continues to work toward the installation of a 500 kW solar array. Once the project is complete (scheduled for October 2010), the District will need to purchase very little power from PG&E.

Lastly, I'd like to extend the Board's and my congratulations to the winners of the 16th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest. I was impressed and inspired by the talent shown by the students in our District. With such a display of creativity, I can't help but feel that the future is bright.

NEW HIGH VISABILITY UNIFORMS

You've seen them wearing bright orange shirts and vests as they service the 280 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 6,015 manholes, more than 60 special structures and 14 pump stations that make up the District's sewer collection system.

They are Oro Loma's collection crews. Now you'll see them wearing lime green.

The color change is not a fashion statement; it is a move to provide better protection for workers who often need to perform complicated tasks while exposed to traffic.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which sets the standards for high-visibility safety apparel, drafted new recommendations for visibility in January 2010, after receiving a report from the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition.

In addition to their fluorescent lime green color, the new safety shirts sport wide reflective stripes.

The District has an excellent safety record—one lost time injury since 2002. The new high visibility uniforms are sure to help bolster that impressive reputation.



Sewer Pipeline Replacement Project

Oro Loma contractors will use a technologically-advanced process called Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) to line approximately 2,260 feet of 21-inch sewer main this summer. The process builds a jointless pipe within the existing pipe, thereby avoiding the need for open trench excavation. The interior smoothness of the new pipe improves flow capacity, while the fact that there are no joints significantly reduces infiltration of ground water and tree roots. Pipes created this way are more durable than conventional pipes, as they have no joints that can separate over time.

The project will take approximately 60 days to complete. There will be no disruption in sewer service during this time. The work will begin at the intersection of Paseo Grande and Meekland Avenue, and extend southwest across the Colonial Acres School property, Via Cordoba, Via Toledo, Via Granada, and Via Arroyo, ending at the 880 Interstate.

This is the second time the District has used the technology to replace a deteriorating segment of sewer line. The first project used CIPP to rehabilitate a two-mile length of concrete-encased sewer main on 150th Avenue in San Leandro.





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2010 Poster
Contest
Winners!

Regional Occupational Program

Trevor Schofield has been volunteering his time at Oro Loma for the past 25 weeks without pay. And he really appreciates the opportunity.

Trevor is the latest Regional Occupational Program (ROP) intern to come through the District.

ROP students become Operators-in-Training by working directly with certified wastewater treatment plant personnel to observe operation and maintenance procedures. They learn to tend machinery and equipment, read and interpret charts, meters, and gauges, collect samples, and perform lab tests. Graduates become familiar with the treatment plant equipment and begin to understand the biological, chemical, and physical processes that remove harmful contaminants from wastewater before it is recycled or returned to the environment.

Students attend class one evening per week from September through June, and must work as unpaid interns for an additional 16 hours per week. Upon completion of the program, they will have received 150 hours of classroom instruction and 390 hours of hands-on experience; graduates are now equipped to take the Grade I Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator exam administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board. Trevor has already passed his Grade I exam.

The majority of students entering ROP are working adults interested in making a career change; the program is open to applicants who are at least 16 years old and high school juniors. In addition, students must have knowledge of basic algebra. Having taken some chemistry courses is also desirable.

At 21, Trevor knew that he wanted a career that was meaningful, something where he could work outdoors and make a difference. His father, who works for another sanitary district, suggested the ROP program. Although the program requires students to intern without pay at a wastewater treatment plant, it is up to the student to find that internship. Trevor applied at Oro Loma and was accepted as an intern after an intense interview. Now that he has passed his Grade I Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator exam and has shown what he can do, Trevor was offered a part-time summer job at the plant. This time he'll get paid.

To learn more about the program and to receive an invitation to the next orientation, please visit the Tri-Valley ROP website at www.tvrop.org



Excellence in Financial Reporting

Oro Loma has once again received the prestigious Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The certificate was awarded for the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY 08/09, prepared by Anna Wilewski-Turon, Finance Manager, and Arlene Wong, Accountant.

The financial report was judged to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the District's financial story and motivate potential users to read the report.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

