



ORO LOMA NEWS

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(510) 276-4700

www.roloma.org

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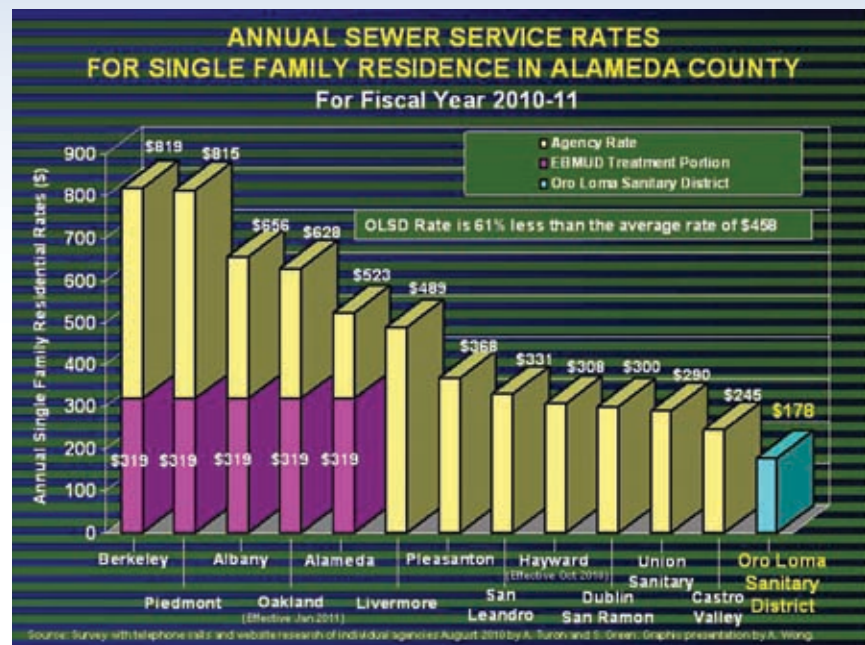
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Oro Loma Sanitary District

No Sewer Service Rate Increase!

In 2008, the Oro Loma Board of Directors voted to reduce residential sewer service rates from \$193 to \$178 a year. In 2010, the Board decided to keep the lower rates for a third year. That means that for fiscal year 2010-2011, Oro Loma residential customers will continue to pay less than 50 cents a day for sewer service that has consistently won local, regional, and state excellence awards. The average annual wastewater collection and treatment service charge for single-family residential

customers of 13 Alameda County providers was \$458. Oro Loma's rate of \$178 a year is 61% lower than the average in Alameda County, and 78% lower than the highest rate!

Keeping residential sewer charges the lowest in Alameda County, while consistently providing the highest level of service, is not an easy task. It would not be possible without the determined efforts of Oro Loma's Board of Directors, management and staff.



Food Scrap Recycling Participation Up to 22%

Almost one quarter of Oro Loma households now participate in the food scrap recycling program.

Participation is easy—just add kitchen trimmings (fruits, vegetables, meat, bones, seafood, egg shells, cheese, bread, beans, rice, pasta, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters) along with food-soiled paper and cardboard containers to your green waste cart. Green waste carts are collected every week.

Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 with questions, to request a small collection pail, or to request a larger green waste cart.

Please encourage your neighbors to join you in making this program a success. Thanks!



What do you think recycling will be like 40 years from now? What things do you think we should recycle that we don't now? How would you make recycling easier? How important do you think recycling will be in 2050? In the future, what things do you think may be made from recycled materials?

These are the kinds of questions we want students to consider when preparing their posters for the Oro Loma/Waste Management 2011 Poster Contest. The contest starts January 18, 2011 and ends March 18, 2011.

Significant changes have been made to the contest rules. Complete contest rules will be posted online at www.roloma.org on January 1, 2011 and will be printed on the back of poster paper, which will be available for free at District schools, at Waste Management's Oakland office, and at the Oro Loma District office on January 18, 2011. Following is a summary of

changes to the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest.

1. There will be seven grade groups instead of six: K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12;
2. Awards:
 - a. Five "Recycling Star Awards" of \$100 each will be awarded to Kindergarten students. The winning students' schools will receive matching prizes.
 - b. Prizes in the other six grade groups (1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12) will be awarded as follows: \$700 first prize, \$500 second prize, \$300 third prize, and two \$150 honorable mentions for each group. The winning students' schools will receive matching prizes.
 - c. Ten \$25 Certificates of Merit will be awarded in the 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 grade groups. Checks will be mailed to schools with the Certificates of Merit.
 - d. Participation awards of \$100 will be

given to schools that do not have a first, second, third, or honorable mention cash prize winner.

3. A school representative *must* be present at the awards ceremony to receive the matching cash prize for the school.

Each year, posters are disqualified because students fail to follow contest rules or fail to understand the theme. Please be sure to read and carefully follow *all* the rules. After January 1, 2011, you can go to www.roloma.org to see a video clip demonstrating how to prepare your entry. If you have questions, call the District at

Recycling Reminders for Students

1. Reuse assignment folders and binders from last year.
2. Sort through old school materials. Many of last year's supplies can be reused.
3. Buy smart! Purchase supplies made from recycled products.
4. Use a reusable lunch box and reusable containers instead of food storage bags.
5. Use a thermos or water bottle, instead of juice boxes.
6. If you buy lunch, take only what you need: one napkin, one ketchup packet, etc.



Report Card to Our Customers—Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Subject	Accomplishment	Grade
Sewer Service Rates	Lowest in California! 61% less than the average for Alameda County	A+
Garbage & Recycling Rates	Among lowest in Alameda County—25% less than the average	A+
Fiscal responsibility	Zero debt; all bonds paid	A+
Regulatory Compliance	No effluent permit violations in 6 years	A+
Safety record	No lost time injuries in 2.5 years	A+
Energy Efficiency & Sustainability	Purchased 0.5M kW from PG&E in 2009, 76% less than in 2007; initiated restaurant grease receiving facility to increase gas production and displace use of fossil fuels	A+
Sewer Overflows	One per 100 miles, 83% less than industry average	A+
Public Information	Comprehensive, informative newsletters and website, www.roloma.org	A+
Public Outreach	Schools program—annual Earth Day Poster Contest and recycling calendar	A+
Financial Reporting	Winner of Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of USA and Canada Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting	A+
OVERALL GRADE	Reported by Jason Warner, General Manager	A+

Electrical contractor retrofits and tests the installation of the arc flash maintenance system on a breaker.

Arc Flash

Recently, a new set of guidelines were adopted by the National Fire Protection Agency regarding a potential hazard called "arc flash." An arc flash involves the release of electrical energy (explosion) when electricity finds a path to the ground or between electrical phases. The guidelines recommend that organizations assess the potential hazard associated with each electrical system, and label the potential hazard and the protective gear required to protect personnel. The District recently completed this assessment and labeling effort. The study showed that the majority of breakers in the plant have a hazard rating of 4, which is the highest hazard category that can be mitigated.

To protect staff and reduce the arc flash potential, the District used a combination of methods. In most areas, we installed maintenance switches that temporarily tighten the trip settings and reduce the energy that can be released from a system. The District also installed remote switches, which put the operators at a safe distance from the potential hazard. Finally, the District purchased arc flash "moon suits," which provide adequate protection when operating equipment with high arc flash potential.

The study and mitigation steps taken help build upon the District's strong safety culture.



OLSD is On Its Way to 100% Sustainable Power

For nearly a year, Oro Loma Sanitary District has been conducting a pilot grease receiving study. The project involves the injection of grease, collected from local restaurant grease interceptors, into the District's existing anaerobic digesters. Through the digestion process, solids are broken down and methane is produced. This methane is sent to an engine-driven generator set, which produces electricity and heat needed for the treatment plant.

Historically, the digesters provide 2/3 of the gas needed for the engines. With the introduction of grease, that fraction has increased to 7/8. In addition to the ongoing construction of a 500 kW solar array, the pilot program is helping the District pursue its goal of self-producing all its electricity and gas

from renewable sources. The District is now experimenting with higher grease dosage rates, which are expected to increase the gas production further.

Based upon the success of the pilot program, staff has put plans and specifications out to bid for the construction of a long term facility.

This project is a great example of Oro Loma's entrepreneurial and action-oriented culture. After receiving several consultant proposals to study a potential project on a theoretical basis, staff asked, "Why not just do it?" We rented a tank and piping, bought a pump, and started the project the same week.

The results were extraordinary. Gas production from the District's digester system in-

creased by 30%, and tipping fees were used to pay for the rental costs. Staff's hands-on, proactive approach saved about \$30,000 in consulting fees, and we obtained superior results because the data collected represented actual conditions.

The one drawback of the program is that grease quality is highly variable; it includes debris like spoons, forks and other plastics, and requires frequent attention from the operations and maintenance personnel. General Manager Warner complimented the OLSD Operations and Maintenance Team by saying, "There is no one here afraid of hard work. The obstacles and challenges presented by the system are well within our team's capacity to overcome."

Senior plant operators Manuel Talledo-García and Raul Saballos stand in front of the new grease-receiving tank.





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NO
Sewer Service
Rate Increase!

IN MEMORIAM: HERBERT G. CROWLE

Herbert Crowle, an Oro Loma Sanitary District Director from July 1994 to August 2007, died July 18, 2010 in San Diego, where he had lived since retiring from Oro Loma. He was 94.

Mr. Crowle devoted his life to community service, advising on issues of land use, planning, water, and transportation.

Educated as a civil engineer at UC Berkeley, where he also taught as a professor, Mr. Crowle was appointed Alameda County's first Director of Public Works in 1957. There he secured \$100 million in federal funds (when, as Mr. Crowle was famous for saying, \$100 million was a lot of money!) for buildings, roads, flood control, and other projects. He is largely credited with containing flood waters in the San Lorenzo and other southern Alameda County creeks.

In 1994, Mr. Crowle retired from the engineering firm of Bissell & Karn and, at the age of 78, decided that his service to the community was not over yet. At the urging of his friend, Oro Loma Director Howard W. Kerr, Mr. Crowle ran for and was elected to the Oro Loma Sanitary District Board of Directors.

Despite a lifetime of engineering accomplishments, his tenure at Oro Loma provided Mr. Crowle with some of his most enduring legacies. He particularly enjoyed seeing students receive their prizes at the annual poster contest, and was proud of Oro Loma's commitment to students and schools within the District.

He will be missed by family, colleagues, and the community he served so well.



POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) lists the following pollutants as major threats to the environmental health of San Francisco Bay.

1. Mercury (mercury thermometers and switches, fluorescent light tubes)
2. Copper (corroded copper pipes, vehicle brakes)
3. FOG (Fat, Oil, and Grease from cooking)
4. Cyanide (metal plating)
5. Pharmaceuticals (Drugs should never be flushed down the toilet or drain.)
6. Dioxin (pesticides, plastics, solvents)
7. Pesticides (All pesticides are toxic)
8. Trash (Your toilet is not a trash can. Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet.)
9. PCBs (transformers and capacitors)



Two Free Bulky Pickups per Year

Residential customers in Oro Loma can take advantage of two FREE bulky pickups per calendar year. Be sure to call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance to schedule your pickup. There are no pickups January 3-14, 2011.

Instead of throwing out useful items, donate them, or hold a garage sale. Magazines, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, and many types of plastic and metal containers can be recycled. For information on bulky pickups and for a list of what can be recycled, visit www.roloma.org.



Do your part to keep San Francisco Bay healthy. Never use your toilet for flushing anything other than human waste and toilet paper. Don't pour grease down the drain. Dispose of pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and universal waste at one of Alameda County's three household hazardous waste collection sites. Mercury thermometers and switches may be dropped off at the District's Grant Avenue office during regular business hours.