

P resident's Message

Oro Loma Sanitary District Turns Solar into Savings

Oro Loma Sanitary District's new solar array is complete and operational. The project is extraordinary in its benefits to the environment, to the ratepayers, and because of the many challenges the project overcame on the way to completion.

In September 2008, the Hayward Daily Review ran an article stating that the District's solar project would be up and running by the end of the year. However, almost immediately after the article was published, the financial crisis caused the initial contractor to lose its funding commitments, and the company was unable to complete the project. The District terminated the initial contract, selected a new vendor, and worked with PG&E to extend the completion target date to maintain the rebate level secured for the project. District staff selected

Solar Power Partners based upon the low cost of their proposal, as well as track record of executing projects under tight timing constraints. Under the terms of the agreement, Oro Loma is obligated to purchase power produced by the array at a cost that is currently at a 20% discount off PG&E's rate.

Solar Power Partners then worked with DRI Energy to design, build, and install the single-axis tracker project. DRI Energy has local offices in San Leandro. They assembled a great team of engineers and installers to meet all of the required schedule milestones. The system includes over 2,100 Trina Solar Panels—220 watt modules on a Raytracker

single-axis tracking system. The system is capable of producing 468kW or 822,000 kWh annually, saving the equivalent greenhouse gas emissions of 113 passenger vehicles or 72 homes.

When added to the District's existing biogas-based power generation facility, Oro Loma can meet almost 100% of its electrical energy needs from renewable energy sources. The system will save the District's ratepayers over \$2 million during the 25-year life of the contract with clean, renewable solar energy at zero out-of-pocket capital costs.

National Medication Take-Back Event

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host an unused medication take-back event on April 30, 2011. Residents will be able to drop off unused and expired medications, including controlled substances (such as morphine-derivative drugs) at local law enforcement agencies throughout the country. An interactive web search will be available at www.DEA.gov to conduct a zip code search for collection sites. New sites are added frequently, so check back before the event to find the most convenient location for you.

Why Expired Medications should not be flushed

Medications that are poured down the drain or flushed in the toilet pass through wastewater

treatment plants that are not designed to completely remove them. Traces of popular heart medications, anti-depressants, antibiotics, cholesterol-lowering drugs, chemotherapy drugs, and hormones are turning up in groundwater across the world. A recent water quality study found these and other drugs present in San Francisco Bay. The easiest way to limit the amount of these potentially harmful drugs in our water is to not flush them down the toilet nor pour them down the drain.

In addition to the National Take Back Event, Alameda County residents can bring unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a Hayward, Oakland, or Livermore household hazardous waste site. If possible, medications should be in their original containers, but the

sites will accept those that are not. Be sure to remove your name and identifying information from all medicine labels. *Controlled substances are not accepted at household hazardous waste sites.* To safely dispose of controlled substances, bring them on April 30 to the local law enforcement agencies participating in the National Take-Back Event or email HHW@acgov.org for further information.

Alameda County residents should bring proof of residency when visiting a county household hazardous waste site. Hours of operation and directions are available at www.stopwaste.org. For more information on the potential danger of pharmaceuticals in the waste stream and what you can do about it, visit www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org.

