



ORO LOMA NEWS

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Imagine... Recycling 2050

The Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2011 Poster Contest is now underway. The deadline for entries is March 18, 2011.

Imagine what recycling will be like in 40 years! Do you think it will be easier to recycle? Do you think we will be recycling different things? What kinds of things will be made from recycled material? Who do you think will be responsible for recycling? These are some of the questions we've asked students to consider when creating their posters for this year's contest.

This is the 17th anniversary of the poster contest, which is jointly sponsored by Oro Loma and Waste Management. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 who attend a school in Oro Loma Sanitary District. Free poster paper with an official entry form and contest rules printed on the back is available now at eligible schools, Waste Management's Oakland office (172 98th Avenue), and the Oro Loma Sanitary District office (2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo). Contest rules and an official entry form are also posted on www.roloma.org.

Significant changes have been made to the contest rules, including reconfiguring the grade groups as follows: K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8,



9-10, and 11-12; awarding ten \$25 Certificates of Merit in each of the six 1-12 grade groups; and requiring a school official to be present at the awards ceremony to receive the school's matching prize.

The prizes for the Earth Day 2011 Poster Contest in the six 1-12 grade groups are: First Place \$700, Second Place \$500, Third Place \$300, and two \$150 Honorable Mentions, along with ten \$25 Certificates of Merit. A new category, Recycling Star, has been created for the Kindergarten group. Five of these \$100 awards will be presented.

Please be sure to read **all** the contest rules before entering. Email contest@roloma.org or call (510) 276-4700 if you have questions.

Winners will be posted on the District's website on April 22, 2011. The specific placement of cash winners within each grade category will be unveiled at an awards ceremony on May 24, 2011.

All posters winning First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention prizes will be printed in the Oro Loma 2011-2012 calendar. All posters will be returned to the schools that submitted them.



2010 Awards Ceremony

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.nodrugsdowndrain.org.



Oro Loma Awarded Again

Oro Loma Sanitary District has once again won the prestigious California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Collection System Award for best wastewater collection system of its size in the San Francisco Bay Area. The District has won the award every year it applied—in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, and again in 2010.

Collection systems were judged on the following criteria:

- Regulatory Compliance
- Special Accomplishments
- Maintenance Program
- Safety Program and Record
- Training Program
- Emergency Procedures
- Administrative Procedures



Judges were particularly impressed with the Collections Department's safety record of no lost-time injuries since September 2002, no sewer overflows for calendar year 2010, the over 160,000 feet of sewer line that is inspected and cleaned each month, and the close partnership between the collections and engineering departments that results in the overall high quality of the District's sewer system. All of this is accomplished with a Collections crew of six full-time employees, all of whom are CWEA-certified and participate in frequent safety and training programs.

Now that Oro Loma has won the San Francisco Bay Section's Collection System of the Year Award in the Medium Category (250-500 miles of sewer pipe), the District is being considered for the State Award in the same category. Oro Loma has won this award twice before, in 2000 and 2005. The winner of the State Award will be announced in April.



Earl Miranda, Bert Gileno, Tim Cravalho

WM EarthCare™ Family of Products

WM EarthCare™ is a new line of products that provide the sustainable, closed-loop solution for Bay Area landscapers who want to reduce their carbon footprint while enriching local soil.

Homegrown Compost

This compost is produced from the food scraps and yard trimmings you put in your green cart. It has been awarded the *US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance* and is pH neutral and rich in nutrients.

HOMEGROWN COMPOST



Mulch

WM EarthCare™ Mulch is made from 100% recycled, clean, untreated lumber. It is coarsely ground to 2", screened and dyed with naturally occurring charcoal and/or iron oxide. It is safe for children and animals and guaranteed to retain its color for one year. Custom sizing and colors are available for volume orders.

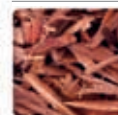
CALIFORNIA GOLD



GOLDEN GATE RED



MONTEREY DUNE NATURAL



MOUNT DIABLO BLACK



MUIR WOODS BROWN



TREASURE ISLAND FINES



WM EarthCare Family of Products is available at the Davis Street Transfer Station, 2615 Davis Street, San Leandro, CA 94577 (510) 638-2303, 7 am–5 pm M–F, 8 am–4 pm Saturday

To find out more about these earth-friendly products, visit www.wmearthcare.com.



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

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Imagine...
Recycling 2050
2011 Contest
Underway

Retirements and Promotions

Oro Loma is fortunate to have a staff of dedicated professionals working to provide customers with the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. Below are individuals who have recently retired or have been promoted.

RETIREMENTS

Together, Bert Gileno and Julie Kerr have provided exemplary service to the District for almost 55 years. We wish them well in their retirement.



Bert Gileno—
The most experienced Lead Worker in the Collections Department, Bert

was hired by Oro Loma on 1/3/78. After 33 years of dedicated service to the District, he retired on 12/27/10.



Julie Kerr—
Julie began her career at Oro Loma on 6/26/89, as the Office Aide. Within three months, she

was promoted to the District's Administrative Assistant. She retired on 12/27/10, after 21½ years of dedicated service to Oro Loma.

PROMOTIONS



Earl Miranda—
Hired on 07/23/07 as a Utility Worker Trainee in the Maintenance Department, joined the Collections

Department on 11/19/08 as a Collection System Trainee, and was promoted to Collection System Worker on 12/27/10.



Sally Green—Hired on 8/4/03 as Office Assistant in the Administration Department, was promoted to District Secretary on 12/28/10.



Angelino Santos—
Hired on 11/16/92 as an Electrical & Instrumentation Technician in the Maintenance Department, was promoted to

Construction Inspector in the Engineering Department on 7/6/10, and reclassified to Field Engineer on 1/10/11.



Tim Cravalho—
Hired on 1/30/98 as a Collection System Worker in the Collections Department, was

promoted on 12/27/10 to Lead Worker.



No “Biodegradable” Food Scrap Bags

“Biodegradable” bags sold for use in collecting food scraps are made from potato or corn, which is readily biodegradable. However, the polymers used to bind the bag do not decompose under the time and temperatures under which Oro Loma's green waste is composted. These bags must be picked out manually from the food scraps that Waste Management collects and discarded as trash.

If you wish to line your green pail before adding kitchen scraps, use a paper bag or folded newspaper. You may also use an empty milk carton or take-out container to collect your scraps before placing them into your green cart.

Thank you for making the Oro Loma food scrap recycling program such a success!

