



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.oro-loma.org

Issue 56

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The Oro Loma Pledge:

To continue providing
the best possible
service at the lowest
possible cost, as we
have done for the last
100 years.

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Special 100th Anniversary Issue

August 7, 1911- August 7, 2011

August 7, 1911



Up until 1910, San Lorenzo was largely rural farms, fruit-drying fields, and cherry orchards. The land was very flat, close to sea level, with foothills to the east. In 1910, the area began to see the subdivision of large farms and estates for individual home sites. With such development, and with large areas subject to winter flooding, community leaders envisioned the need for a public storm water and sewer system. On August 7, 1911, a petition to form Oro Loma Sanitary District was approved by the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors. It encompassed an area of about 800 acres north of Hayward in an area bounded roughly by San Lorenzo Creek and Mattox Road on the north, Meekland Avenue on the west, Grove Way on the south, and Foothill Boulevard on the east.



1911 from top: Fruit-drying field; San Lorenzo Library; Old Burr House; Oakland Scavenger truck.

1940

By the beginning of 1940, development of the area created an urgent need for proper sewage treatment and disposal. In April 1940, the District was reorganized under the Sanitary District Act of 1923. On April 19, 1940, a five-member Board of Directors was elected.

Between 1940 and 1952, 47 large parcels were annexed to the District and 146 subdivisions were accepted.

1941

On March 26, 1941, by Resolution No. 26, Oro Loma approved the first of many joint agreements between Oro Loma, Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSD), and the City of Hayward in regard to the sewer outfalls, as well as future sewer works. In 1941, a joint outfall sewer was constructed from the intersection of Grove Way and Meekland Avenue to a point of discharge in the San Francisco Bay.

1944

Oro Loma contracted with Oakland Scavenger Company to provide trash collection and disposal services to the District's customers.



1948

By 1947, the California State Board of Health required all jurisdictions dumping raw sewage into fresh waters to provide treatment sufficiently adequate to avoid pollution. The District acquired land at the west end of Grant Avenue for construction of a sewage treatment and disposal plant. A \$1,840,000 General Obligation Bond was issued on July 2, 1948, to finance the District's first sewage treatment plant.

Construction of the new plant began in 1948 and completed in 1950. It had a primary treatment capacity of 12 million gallons per day (mgd).



Oro Loma sewer treatment plant in 1950

1960s

By 1967, federal wastewater discharge requirements became more stringent, and the State Water Resources Control Board set new treatment standards, including secondary treatment. To meet these standards, the District constructed a more technologically sophisticated sewage treatment plant.

This modern sewage treatment plant, designed by Kennedy Engineers, used the activated sludge method of secondary treatment. Construction began in 1967 and was completed in 1969.



Above: New treatment plant under construction in 1967.



Right: Board members, including Engineer-Manager of the District, Gail H. Stanton (middle back), at the General Obligation Bond signing ceremony on February 9, 1968.

1950s

Continuous growth in the San Lorenzo community resulted in the construction of major sewer lines.



Left: General Manager Gerald L. Worthley (at right) pictured with contractors, including Mike Hester, Walt Mattson and Charles Aldridge (circa 1953). Above and right: Laying pipe.



1974

The East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA), a joint-powers agency, was formed in 1974 by agreement between Oro Loma and four other sanitation agencies in the East San Francisco Bay.

The purpose of the "joint exercise of powers" agreement was to provide for more efficient disposal of wastewater by enabling member agencies to jointly construct common wastewater facilities. These facilities included pipelines, pump stations, a common submarine outfall, and a dechlorination station.



Construction of the EBDA main in 1975. The completed system was dedicated 1981.

1990-2000

Additional areas were annexed to the District. Over 1,000 new sewer connections, three new lift stations and more than 8.5 miles of sewer lines were added to the service area.

1991

\$12 million in Sewer Revenue Bonds were issued to improve and renovate the District's aging facilities.

1993

A biweekly collection of household recyclables and weekly collection of green waste was implemented.

1994

Sodium hypochlorite replaced chlorine in disinfecting effluent going into San Francisco Bay.

May 1995

Awards for the first Oro Loma Earth Day Poster Contest were presented. There were 200 entries in the environmental awareness contest.

August 1995

Expanded recycling program began.

1996

Oro Loma exceeded 50% diversion from landfill as required by AB939.

1997

Curbside recycling began. Green waste and recycling services were expanded and bulky waste pickup was reinstated.

1998

Entries in the fourth annual Oro Loma Earth Day Poster Contest reached 3000. \$17,000 was awarded to students and schools in the District.



Clockwise from top left: Students and families celebrate at the 1999 Poster Contest Awards Ceremony; Installation of the belt press system; Incinerator that was used to burn dry sludge was demolished in 1999; Curbside recycling and trash pickup began in 1997; Sodium hypochlorite replaced chlorine in 1994.

FREE TREATMENT PLANT TOURS

The District will offer free tours of the treatment plant every Wednesday in August, 2011. Reservations are required and must be made by the Friday before the requested date. Call (510) 276-4700 during regular business hours, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, to reserve your spot on a tour.



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of
Service!

2001

Bayfair trunk sewer upgrade and the Lewelling Boulevard interceptor sewer projects were completed.

2002

A major upgrade project to restore the treatment plant's 20 million gallons a day flow was proposed.

2003

Recycling trucks switched to compressed natural gas.

2004

Bulky pickup and recycling services were expanded. Ground was broken on the plant restoration project. A target completion date of 2007 was established.

2006

The Plant Capacity Restoration Project was completed, nearly a year ahead of schedule and under budget.

2007

Oro Loma Earth Day Poster Contest prizes are increased.

Washington Avenue sewer project was completed.

2009

Oro Loma paid off all debt. Food scrap recycling began.

2010

A grease-receiving project began.

The District's new solar array project was completed. Oro Loma is now able to supply almost all of its electrical energy needs.



Clockwise from top left: Oro Loma switches to CNG trucks; Ground is broken on the Plant Capacity Restoration Project; 2009 contest winners; Solar panels cover two acres of District property. With the completion of this project, Oro Loma meets almost all of its electrical energy needs; Food scraps are collected as part of green waste; New clarifiers are part of the plant restoration project.