



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

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Oro Loma  
Customers  
Reach 75%  
Diversion  
Milestone

### Important Phone Numbers to Keep Handy

Oro Loma Sanitary District Office and  
24/7 Emergency Response:..... (510) 276-4700  
Waste Management: ..... (510) 613-8710

Alameda County Recycling Hotline: . (877) STOPWASTE  
Alameda County  
Household Hazardous Waste: ..... (800) 606-6606

## READY ★ SET, RECYCLE

Here's your chance to win gift cards from Peet's Coffee, Jamba Juice, Safeway and more. Simply keep recyclables out of your trash and you could be a random winner. You can also play the Speed Sorter Game, pledge to recycle, and share your recycling tips. The Ready, Set, Recycle Contest is designed to reward the good recycling behavior of County residents and help us achieve our long-term recycling goals.

#### Contest Rules:

- Keep all your recyclables (bottles, cans, plastic, newspapers, etc.) and organics (food scraps, food-soiled paper and green waste) out of the garbage cart and put them in their appropriate containers.
- Set your carts at the curb on your designated pick-up day.
- Garbage carts from single family homes in Alameda County will be selected at random. Contents from these carts will be separated into recyclable material; organic, compostable material; and garbage.
- The households with randomly selected garbage carts



that contain less than 10% (by weight) of compostable and recyclable material will be eligible to win a \$50 gift card.

- A residence may be disqualified if garbage is found in the recycling cart or contamination is found in the green cart during the cart check on your regular collection day.
- A customer may decline to participate in the contest, which means that the customer's solid waste and recycling carts will not be checked during the contest period for proper sorting of recyclables and organics. In order to decline, go to [www.readysetrecyclecontest.org/opt-out-form/](http://www.readysetrecyclecontest.org/opt-out-form/) and complete the opt out form.
- Other incentives may be awarded for participation in recycling programs sponsored by StopWaste.Org. The number and types of prizes may change over time.
- StopWaste.Org Board members, employees or contractors involved with the Ready Set Recycle Contest, or immediate family members of the aforementioned, are ineligible to win prizes.

For more information please visit:  
[www.readysetrecyclecontest.org/faq/](http://www.readysetrecyclecontest.org/faq/).



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

[www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org)

Fall 2012

Issue 60

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(510) 276-4700

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## DO YOUR PART TO KEEP SAN FRANCISCO BAY HEALTHY Part Two—Put Trash in Its Place

#### Toxins

The list of toxins that threaten the Bay is long and includes many common household items.

#### Pharmaceuticals



Prescription and over-the-counter medications are an important part of our lives. Sometimes our lives depend on them. But what about medicines that have expired or were never taken? Flushing them down the toilet might seem convenient but it would not be the right disposal choice. A recent water quality report has found trace amounts of popular heart medications, anti-depressants, antibiotics, cholesterol-lowering drugs, chemotherapy drugs, veterinary drugs, and hormones in San Francisco Bay.

Alameda County residents can safely dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals by bringing them to one of three household hazardous waste collection sites in the county, or to a nearby site established by the Alameda County Medication Disposal Initiative. To find out more about household hazardous waste sites, visit [www.StopWaste.org](http://www.StopWaste.org) or call (800) 606-6606. For information on why it is so important to properly dispose of common drugs and for the location of a disposal center near you, visit the Alameda County Medication Disposal Initiative at <http://acseniors-medidisposal.net/> or call (510) 885-8743. Controlled substances can only be accepted at the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at 15001 Foothill Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94578, (510) 667-7721.

#### Used Motor Oil

Oil that is used in your car, motorcycle, or

boat contains hazardous contaminants such as arsenic and benzene, which are dangerous to the environment. Dumped into a storm drain, onto the ground, or put out with the garbage, the oil ends up in the Bay, in streams and rivers, or in groundwater. One gallon of used motor oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of water.



Oro Loma residents can safely and conveniently dispose of used motor oil and oil filters by placing them next to their garbage carts. Up to two gallons of used motor oil and two used motor oil filters can be recycled each week. Special containers and bags are required for recycling. These are free and available from Waste Management by calling (510) 613-8710.

#### Other Pollutants

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group lists the following additional pollutants as major threats to the environmental health of San Francisco Bay: Mercury (mercury thermometer and switches, florescent light tubes, dental amalgams); Copper (corroded copper pipes, vehicle brakes); Cyanide (metal plating); Dioxin (pesticides, plastics, solvents); Pesticides (all pesticides are toxic); PCBs (transformers and capacitors).

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 and pharmaceuticals at household hazardous waste collection sites. Household batteries and cell phones can be recycled by putting them in clear plastic bags and then placing the bags on top of the recycling cart.





**DON'T FORGET ME.**  [ReusableBagsAC.org](http://ReusableBagsAC.org)

## Get Ready to Bring Your Own Bag!

Plastic bags are one of the most common litter items found in our creeks, storm drains and streets—but one reusable bag can replace more than 600 single-use bags over its lifetime.

To save valuable natural resources, reduce litter, and reduce the cost to the public of litter cleanup, a new countywide ordinance has been adopted by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority to promote the use of reusable bags in place of single-use plastic carryout bags.

Beginning January 1, 2013, stores in Alameda County that sell packaged foods—including most grocery stores, minimarts, convenience stores, liquor stores, and pharmacies—will no longer provide customers with single-use plastic bags at checkout. Bags made of recycled paper or reusable bags will be available for a minimum price of 10 cents per bag. Consumers may bring any type of bags from home—and are strongly encouraged to do so!

Small plastic bags used to protect and transport produce, bulk food or meat from within a store to the checkout or cash register will still be available free of charge.

Tips to get ready for the Reusable Bag Ordinance now:

- Get in the habit of bringing your own bags when you go to the store.
- Keep reusable bags in your car to use when you go shopping.
- Store bags near the front door, the door to the garage, or wherever you keep your grocery list.

Learn more at [ReusableBagsAC.org](http://ReusableBagsAC.org)

New Oro Loma service brochures have been mailed to residential, commercial, and multi-family customers. If you did not receive yours, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 to request one.



## Helpful Reminders

- Residential customers can increase recycling capacity at no additional cost. Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 for a larger or additional cart.
- A second green waste cart is also available from Waste Management. (Fees may apply.)

## Mandatory Commercial Recycling

With the passage of AB 341, commercial enterprises and public entities that generate four or more cubic yards of waste per week, and multi-family housing complexes with five or more units are now required to adopt recycling practices. The state law went into effect on July 1, 2012.

### Benefits of AB 341

In addition to less material going into landfills, AB 341 also contributes to the local economy. The Department of Resource Recycling estimates that local jurisdictions, schools, and businesses will save \$40 million to \$60 million per year from 2012-2020, due to lower recycling versus disposal costs. A higher volume of recyclables will also create manufacturing and recycling jobs and help contribute to California's economy.

Waste Management is working with the jurisdictions that it serves on a program to support commercial customers and multi-family complexes in meeting the AB 341 requirements. Waste Management can also provide customers with a free waste and recycling assessment. To set up a waste and recycling assessment appointment for your business or multi-family housing complex, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.



## “Judge” Landis Celebrates 40 Years of Service

Laython Neal “Judge” Landis has served longer than any Board Member in the District's 101+ year history—an amazing 40 years of dedication to Oro Loma's customers.

He was first elected to the Board in 1966, and served until 1986. During this time, Mr. Landis



also served for eight years on the San Leandro City Council, from 1976-1984. In 1992 he was reelected to the Oro Loma Board, of which he has been a member ever since. He was recently elected to another term.

During his tenure on the Board, Mr. Landis has guided the District in such

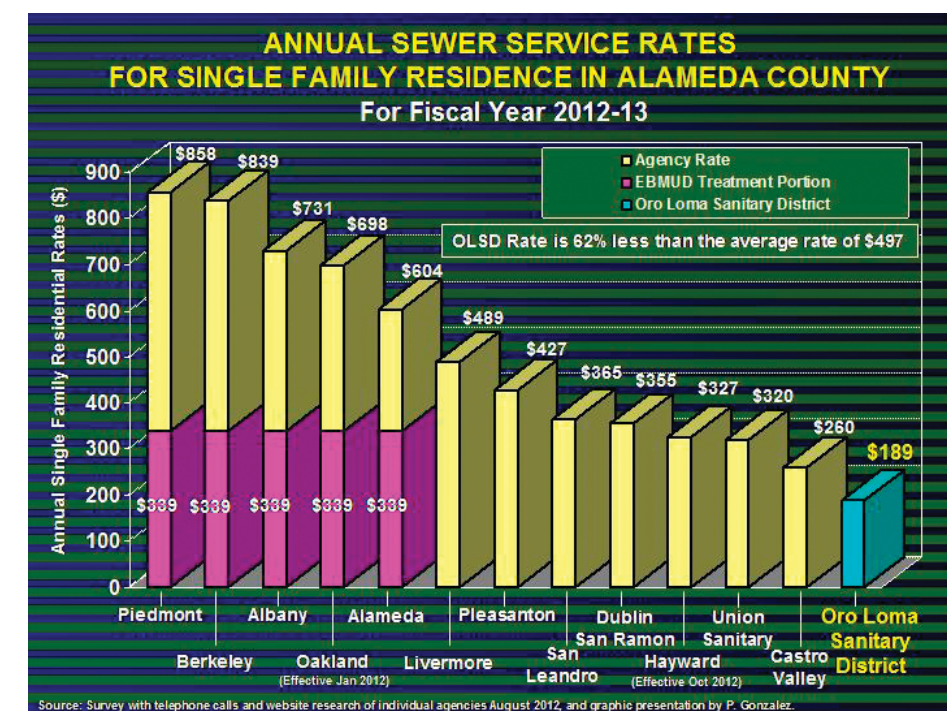
significant undertakings as the completion of a secondary treatment wastewater facility in 1969, the establishment of the East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA) in 1974, the start of a recycling and green waste collection program in 1993, the first Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest in 1995, major sewer projects in 2001, a plant capacity restoration project that was completed before schedule and under budget in 2006, and the retiring of all District debt in 2009.

In her letter of commendation to Director Landis on his 40-year anniversary, United States Senator Diane Feinstein wrote: “Your outstanding record of conduct, performance and commitment to your community exemplify how one person can make a profound difference in the lives of others. You have performed such outstanding work, gained the admiration of your colleagues, and achieved many accomplishments in your career.”

Other officials to congratulate Mr. Landis included California State Senator Ellen Corbett and United States Congressperson Jackie Spier.

Oro Loma thanks Director Landis for his many years of service!

## Oro Loma Residential Sewer Rates Still the Lowest!



## Oro Loma Customers Reach 75% Diversion Milestone for the First Time

The diversion rate—the rate or percentage of a potentially recyclable material that has been diverted out of the waste disposal stream and therefore not put into landfills—for unincorporated Alameda County for 2011 was 77%.

This rate is a full 12 percentage points higher than the average for California in the same year. Great job!