

INSIDE ORO LOMA



Pipe bursting installation of new sewer pipe



Collection System Update

Oro Loma continues to improve the health of its pipes—5.4 miles of pipe replaced in the last 12 months

Telling a Different Story

It's a common story throughout the United States—sewage pipes are wearing out and there isn't enough money to fix them. The Oro Loma Board wanted to tell a different story. So when the Board met to establish a strategic 10-year plan, they set a goal of improving the overall health of the 270 miles of pipe that collects sewage and brings it to the treatment plant. Imagine the challenge of improving your own health as you are getting older.

Goals Set

Once the goal was established, the Engineering Department developed a method to measure the health of the system. The next steps were to prioritize the pipe system needs, estimate budget

needs, and then prepare plans to replace the pipes that were in the worst condition.

Pipe Bursting

In most cases, the engineers specified a method of replacement called pipe bursting. Pipe bursting involves pulling a new high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe through a vitrified clay pipe. In the process, the old pipe breaks around the new pipe. The end product is a new, watertight, and seamless pipe with a life of 2-3 times that of the original clay pipe.

In the last 12 months, the District has replaced 5.4 miles of pipe using this method. This level of pipe replacement will give our customers peace of mind knowing that their system will continue to provide the same high level of service that Oro Loma customers deserve.

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Oro Loma Is Doing Its Part to Protect the Bay

District meets or exceeds permit requirements 12 years in a row

Facilities that discharge treated wastewater into San Francisco Bay must obtain a permit from the California State Water Resources Control Board, which sets stringent discharge standards. Oro Loma has met those requirements continuously for 12 years in a row. As an example, the discharge permit requires that 85% of total suspended solids be removed before treated wastewater may be discharged into San Francisco Bay. Oro Loma removes 98% of such solids. In FY 2017/2018, as in previous years, Oro Loma did not once violate any aspect of its permit from the California State Water Resources Control Board. Oro Loma is doing its part to protect the Bay.

2018 Schools Outreach Project



130 students were chosen in the Oro Loma 2018 Schools Outreach Project to receive \$100 gift cards. All 29 District schools participated in the project.

Oro Loma Open House May 5, 2018

On May 5, 2018, 775 visitors to the Oro Loma Open House toured the plant, watched equipment demonstrations, participated in hands-on activities, enjoyed complimentary eats and treats, and recognized students in the 2018 Schools Outreach Project.



Open House visitors and students enjoyed complimentary treats.



District staff demonstrated a robotic pipe inspection camera.



Waste Management staff described features of their truck.



Treatment plant tours were conducted throughout the day.

Oro Loma Director Roland J. Dias Retires



Director Dias helps break ground in 2004 on the Oro Loma plant upgrade project.

After 26 years, Director Roland Dias is retiring from Oro Loma in August 2018. During his tenure on the Board, Director Dias used his financial expertise gained as an executive of Pacific Bell to help turn the District into a high-performing organization.

During his time on the Board, the District saved money and then used the savings for major initiatives that included a \$34M upgrade to the treatment plant and setting aside 100% of required funds needed for future retiree benefits. The District continues to invest in infrastructure, while having the lowest sewer service charges in California.

Director Dias is famous for thoroughly researching projects that come before the Board and asking the hard questions. During the plant upgrade project completed in 2006, he obtained a college textbook on wastewater engineering so he could better understand the planned project.

Under his leadership, the District has had extraordinary success. It achieved multiple years of zero sewer overflows, ongoing treatment compliance, an award-winning safety program, financial reporting excellence, and production of enough green energy to zero out the treatment plant's energy bill. As the District continues to invest in pipes, pumps, and equipment, the next generation of rate payers will continue to enjoy reliable and responsive service.

In 2017, the Bay Institute presented Director Dias and the Oro Loma Board with the the Bay Hero Award for their leadership and support of the Horizontal Levee Project.

As Director Dias aptly said, "My focus has always been to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost. I am pleased that my fellow Board members set very high goals and that the employees were successful in exceeding them."

District Award

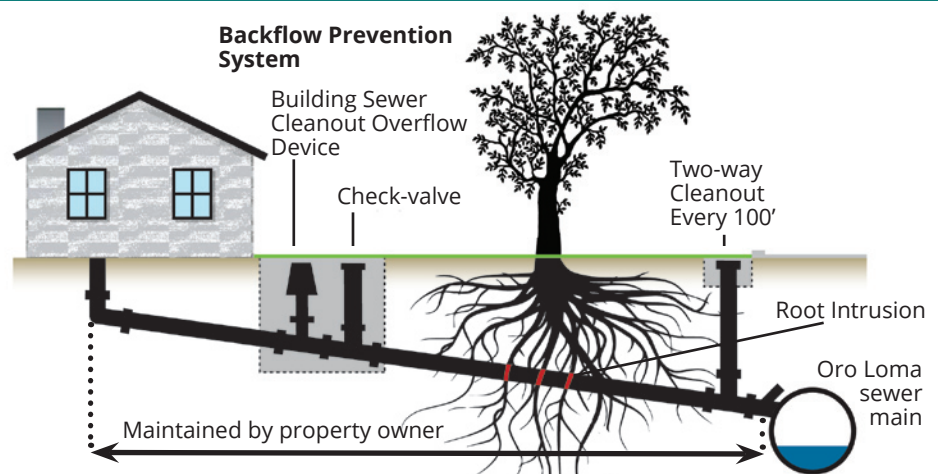
Oro Loma Sanitary District has once again won the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the 23rd year in a row that the District has received the award, which is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations to the District Finance Department for telling Oro Loma's financial story so well for so many years.



Wastewater Collection Corner

What Is a Sewer Lateral?

Your home's plumbing connects to the public wastewater system through an underground pipe called a "private sewer lateral." As the property owner, you own this pipe and are responsible for keeping it in good repair. Laterals do not end at the curb or property line, but extend all the way to the sewer main, which is maintained by Oro Loma Sanitary District. Water backing up into your sink or tub is usually caused by a clog in your plumbing or sewer lateral. But the problem may also be in the sewer main. If you can't clear the clog, call Oro Loma. We may be able to help.





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

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

Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste (800) 606-6606

BOARD MEETINGS—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

First and third Tuesdays of every month at 3:00 p.m.

What's New

Sewer Service Charges

An increase to the Oro Loma Sanitary District Sewer Service Charges went into effect July 1, 2018. The 7.5% increase is part of a five-year plan approved by the Board on May 17, 2016. The 2018 sewer service charge for single-family residential customers is \$256/year (from \$238/year). The new rate remains the lowest in Alameda County.

Solid Waste Rates

The District's agreement with Waste Management provides for annual solid waste rate adjustments for customers, based on a combination factor that includes cost of living and benefit adjustments tied to Waste Management's labor contracts. For 2018-2019, the contractual rate increase will be 2.91%. The rate for a San Lorenzo single-family residential customer with a 35-gal trash cart would become \$18.15/month (from \$17.64/month). The rates for residential recycling and green waste services remain unchanged at \$4.60/month. The Board will consider adopting the new rates at its August 21, 2018 Board meeting, with an effective date of September 1, 2018.

Two New Employees



Brett Grundemann

Brett Grundemann just couldn't stay away. He first joined Oro Loma as an intern in 2013. After completing his internship, Brett spent four years with the City of San Mateo, where he gained his State Certification as a Grade III Wastewater

Treatment Plant Operator and was promoted to Shift Supervisor. Based on his sound performance as an intern, his positive attitude, and professional growth after leaving, Brett was hired by Oro Loma as a Plant Operator II on April 9, 2018. The Operations Department enthusiastically welcomed him back. Brett bikes to work from Oakland, where he lives with his wife and two large dogs.



Tony Lam

Tony Lam comes to Oro Loma with an impressive list of qualifications, including a Bachelor of Science Degree, a Master's Degree in Industrial Automation, Grade V Operator's License, and certifications as a mechanical technologist and a lab analyst. At Oro Loma, Tony will use that training to carry out his duties as a Plant Operator II, a position that requires him to understand every aspect of plant operation and be ready to take over any position at any time. Tony came to the District on June 11, 2018 from the City of San Leandro. He lives in Fremont with his family.

