Earthquakes, major storms—and yes, viral pandemics—are all emergency situations for which Oro Loma has prepared. Wastewater collection and treatment is vital to the health and well-being of our community. Oro Loma is committed to operating and maintaining the District’s wastewater collection and treatment facilities even under the most difficult circumstances. To that end, we have taken some important steps, including:

- Securing a three-month supply of all wastewater treatment chemicals;
- Servicing and testing all emergency vehicles and equipment;
- Continuing regular sewer cleaning for lines identified as “hot spots”;
- Ensuring that lab testing will not be interrupted and the District’s effluent entering the Bay will continue to meet all local, state, and federal regulations;
- Continuing to make engineering staff available for inspections and support of private contractors and those working on replacing main sewer lines;
- Maintaining a 24/7 response to sewer emergencies and customer sewer backup issues;
- Making sure that the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant is fully staffed.

Most important of all, each member of the District’s staff is committed to our community and has promised to continue to provide the highest level of service under all circumstances.

While California’s shelter-in-place order is active, the District’s administration office will be closed. However, customers may call (510) 276-4700 24/7 for immediate emergency response or to report non-urgent issues, which will be forwarded to our customer service team.
Help Us Keep Our Sewers Working During Shelter-In-Place

Only flush the 3 Ps—Pee, Poo, Toilet Paper

Are you among the many who are running low on toilet paper? If so, you may be tempted to substitute other paper products or wipes. If you do, please place it in the trash. Flushing anything other than pee, poo, or toilet paper can cause a sewer blockage, either in the sewer main or in your home plumbing. Toilet paper is designed to dissolve in water. Even tissues will not dissolve and can cause problems. If you are out of toilet paper, please seal whatever other product you are using in a plastic bag after use and dispose of the bag in the trash.

Never Flush Any of These Items. Ever!

- Baby Wipes
- Dental Floss
- Bandages & Sticker Backs
- Q-tips & Make-up Pads
- ‘Flushable’ Wipes
- Kitty Litter
- Hair
- Cleaning Wipes
No Interruption in Service

Despite challenges posed by operating during the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Waste Management is committed to continuing all trash, recycling, and green waste collections without interruption. In fact, for the period of January through March, 19 out of 20 drivers who service Oro Loma earned Excellence in Service awards for their on-time waste, recycling, and green waste collections in the District. If Waste Management encounters further challenges, the collection of trash will remain a top priority.

Waste Management has taken many steps to protect the health and safety of its employees. It has closed all offices for the duration of state and local shelter-in-place orders, changed shift times for drivers to allow for social distancing, and provided personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to staff. Because the work at the Material Recovery Facility inherently does not allow for social distancing, the facility on Davis Street has been closed until further notice. Bulky waste pickup and collection of batteries and used motor oil have also been temporarily suspended.

During the period of the shelter-in-place order, Waste Management has seen a decrease of 25% trash from businesses and an increase of 25% trash from residential households. Waste Management is working with residents to address the increased volume of household trash during this time.

While Waste Management offices will continue to be closed until the shelter-in-place order is lifted, the Customer Service Department can still be reached at (510) 613-8710.

Wastewater Collection Corner

Backflow Prevention System

A backflow prevention system can prevent raw sewage from entering your home or business in the event of a blockage. You will find more information on the District’s website at oroloma.org. Please contact a plumber or sewer contractor for information on how to get the system installed for your home.

Reminders

- Oro Loma will continue to collect, treat, and safely discharge wastewater without interruption;
- 24/7 response to sewer emergencies and customer backup issues will continue. Call (510) 276-4700;
- District administrative offices are closed during the shelter-in-place order. Leave a non-emergency message at (510) 276-4700;
- The engineering staff remains available for inspections and for contractor support;
- **DO YOUR PART Only flush the 3 Ps—Pee, Poo, Toilet Paper**;
- Trash, recycling, and green waste will continue to be collected on schedule;
- Waste Management offices will remain closed during the shelter-in-place order;
- Even though Waste Management offices are closed, customers can reach them at (510) 613-8710;
- Bulky pickup is suspended during the shelter-in-place order;
- The Material Recovery Facility on Davis Street is closed;
- Collection of used motor oil and batteries has been temporarily suspended.
Message from the Board of Directors

Oro Loma stands ready to meet these challenging times.

Years of planning and training have prepared the District to face the Covid-19 challenge we are now confronting. All that planning cannot replace the most important element in successfully meeting the challenge of a viral pandemic—the people of Oro Loma. The District is profoundly grateful to men and women who work every day to protect the health and well-being of our community. They are the reason we will continue to meet this challenge and will continue to operate at full capacity.

The Board continues to meet and conduct all normal business, but while the stay-at-home order is in place, the Board has been and will continue to meet via video conference. The agendas for all meetings are available at oroloma.org. We invite you to review them and let us know of your thoughts and concerns.

Lastly, we wish you and yours all the best. Stay safe. Be well.

New Employees

Gene Palop

Gene was hired as the new Maintenance Manager on December 9, 2019. With over 33 years of wastewater facility operations and maintenance management experience and with experience in the startup of new facilities and upgrade of existing facilities, Gene is very well-qualified to take on his new position. Gene has a Bachelor of Science in Business/Information Systems and Associate degrees in Electronic Technology and Networking Technology. He comes to the District from Otay Water District in Spring Valley, CA, where he spent six years as a Senior SCADA Technician and six years as a Reclamation Plant/SCADA Supervisor.

Aldo Lopez-Sainz

Aldo was hired as a Collection System Worker on December 9, 2019. Aldo earned his Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice at the College of San Mateo and spent over two years with the City of Belmont as a Maintenance Worker. Aldo's duties included the cleaning, inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement, and installation of sewer lines, manholes, valves, controls, and pumps. Additionally, he performed sidewalk, gutter, and curb installations and repairs.