

# INSIDE ORO LOMA



## Major Plant Upgrade Working Great!

Oro Loma Sanitary District is doing its part to protect the health of San Francisco Bay.

Oro Loma Sanitary District has completed a major upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant. Using a process that removes nitrogen from treated wastewater before it is discharged, the District is helping to protect the health of San Francisco Bay. Too much nitrogen (think fertilizer) in the water can lead to undesirable cycles of algae growth and decay, which, in turn, deplete oxygen levels and hurt fish and other organisms that live in the Bay.

Regulations controlling the levels of nutrients in treated wastewater discharged into San Francisco Bay are expected to become increasingly stringent. With this upgrade, Oro Loma is in a position to meet or exceed projected regulations for at least 20 years.

The new nutrient treatment process completes the nitrogen cycle, but does it

faster than would occur in nature. During the process, ammonia from wastewater is converted into nitrogen gas and returned harmlessly back to the atmosphere, which is 80% nitrogen.

The upgrade was designed to remove 70% of the ammonia entering the plant. After the first six months, plant operators are exceeding the design targets and achieving greater than 90% removal.

Although nutrient treatment has been around for years, Oro Loma is one of the first in the Bay Area to attempt the process at this scale. Success of the project is due in part to sound design, but credit is due to the plant operators who sought additional training and prepared themselves for a once-in-a-generation process change. Without prior experience, they took textbook learning and made it happen in real life.

WASTEWATER  
SOLID WASTE  
& RECYCLING

*Serving Our  
Community,  
Protecting Our  
Environment*

---

#### Board of Directors

Rita Duncan  
*President*

Fred Simon  
*Vice President*

Shelia Young  
*Secretary*

Benny Lee  
*Director*

Paul Stelzmann  
*Director*

General Manager  
Jason Warner

Editor  
Andreea Simion

See an issue that needs attention?

# Mobile Citizen App



Alameda County Public Works Agency has launched a new program that allows residents to report non-emergency issues using their smart phones. The free app is available from Google Play and the iTunes Store.

To report illegal dumping and other issues, a user takes a photo, selects the service requested, provides optional comments, and, using the app, uploads the information directly to the agency. The GPS function of the app maps the location and simultaneously generates a work request.

Users who choose to register and supply an email address will receive a WR# and will get status updates.

## 10-Year Strategic Vision and Goals

In May 2013, the Board adopted its first 10-Year Strategic Vision and Goals Plan. The Board has reviewed and updated the plan every two years.

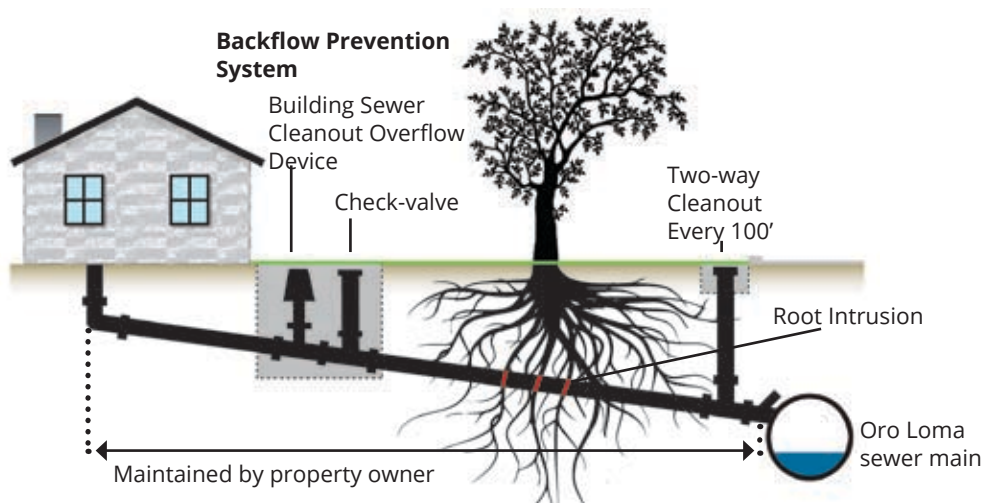
On April 6, 2021, the Board approved the new plan revision, which addresses a number of critical issues including: improving the health of the sewer system;

replacing garbage and recycling carts as required by SB 1383 (see back page); and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The full text of Oro Loma's 10-Year Strategic Vision and Goals Plan is available at [oroloma.org](http://oroloma.org).

## 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.





# Two Free Bulky Pickups per Year

**Oro Loma residential customers are entitled to two bulky pickups per calendar year at no additional cost.**

Pickups are arranged by appointment. Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance to schedule your pickup. Allow extra time during the holidays.

## **All these items may be included:**

- Large residential appliances;
- Automobile tires;
- Household furniture and mattresses;
- Trimmings and wood;
- Trash and small appliances (up to 2 cu. yds.).

## **None of these items are allowed:**

- Any single item over 75 pounds;
- Rocks, dirt, concrete, construction debris;
- Hazardous waste (stopwaste.org for more information).

For restrictions and setout information, visit [oroloma.org](http://oroloma.org).

Before throwing out useful items, consider donating them or holding a garage sale.



## *Important Reminders*

### **Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be held on June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm via teleconference. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed increase to sewer service charges and recycling and organics charges. Written notification and explanation of the proposed increases has been mailed to all property owners in the District.

### **Recycling Schedules**

Recycling schedules are available in pdf format from [oroloma.org](http://oroloma.org).

### **Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste**

Oro Loma residents can drop off household hazardous waste at one of three facilities: Oakland, Hayward, and Livermore. Appointments are currently required and can be made at [stopwaste.org/hhw](http://stopwaste.org/hhw) or by calling (800) 606-6606.

Examples of household hazardous waste include: batteries, small appliances, electronics, paint, auto fluids, fluorescent tubes, cleaners, and garden and pest sprays.

## *Wastewater Collection Corner*

**Watch for the cones. Help keep people safe.**

Sewer mains are in the street. That's where cars are, too.

Every day of the year, Oro Loma crews are out cleaning, repairing, and recording the condition of 280 miles of sewer pipes. They are out there making sure your sewer system is running smoothly.

Please watch for the orange cones and drive carefully, so maintenance crews can return safely to their families.





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**

**First and third Tuesdays of every month**

**Visit [OroLoma.org](http://OroLoma.org) for Board agendas**

**Check [oroloma.org](http://oroloma.org) for updates on District responses to Covid-19.**

## *What's New*

### **New Statewide Mandatory Organic Waste Collection—SB 1383**

Effective January 1, 2022, everyone in the State of California will be required to properly sort their waste. Residents, businesses, schools, and government agencies must subscribe to recycling and organics services and keep recyclables and compostables out of the trash (landfill). Additionally, food generating businesses will be required to donate edible food. Jurisdictions will be required to monitor contamination

(non-recyclables in the recycling or organics bin) and provide customer notifications and impose penalties.

In the coming months, Oro Loma will be revising its solid waste program to comply with the requirements of SB 1383. This will include updating public informational materials and container colors and labels.



#### **For more information**

State's waste sorting and service subscription requirements:  
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/SLCP/collection>

State's contamination monitoring requirement:  
<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/collection/contamination>

## *New Employee*

### **Han Sunardi**



Han Sunardi has just been hired as Oro Loma's newest Plant Operator I. Han earned his Bachelor of Science Degree at the Jakarta

Academy of Languages. After moving to the United States, Han continued his education by training at the Sequoia Automotive Institute and the Castro Valley Regional Operational Program in Wastewater/Water Treatment.

Han, a local resident and Oro Loma customer, has worked as a temporary intern in the Operations Department since July 2020. He passed his State Water Resources Control Board Grade I Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator examination in October 2018.