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 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.
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 smartphones. 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.

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. 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.

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 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.
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/slcpcollection/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.