Healthy Pipes Today and for the Next Generation

Oro Loma to replace 40 miles of pipes by 2027

The Oro Loma Board challenged staff with the question, “What would it take to ensure that the sewer pipes in our community are healthier in 10 years than they are today?” The answer was to significantly reduce the number of pipes designated for repair. In short, the District needed to replace 40 miles of pipe before 2027.

During pipe replacement, the old clay pipes are replaced with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes. HDPE is strong, flexible, does not allow tree roots to clog the system, and it limits rainwater from entering the system. In time, the new pipe will be more reliable, require less maintenance, and contribute to the health of the San Francisco Bay.

Infrastructure Money Comes to Our Community

Officials in Washington DC frequently talk about the need for infrastructure improvements and money to pay for them. The “40 Miles by 2027” project is a positive example of how infrastructure money flows into our local community. To fund the work, the District received two loans totaling $50M at an average interest rate of 1.4%.

Funding partners

The District thanks its funding partners, the State of California Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and EPA Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA), for enabling the District to save its customers millions of dollars by securing below market financing for these necessary wastewater collection system improvements. The District has already started the project and will provide updates as the work progresses. You may contact the District at info@OroLoma.org if you have questions.
The Board also established a strategic goal of setting sewer rates to fund its pipe replacement needs without borrowing in the future. The low interest loans serve as a bridge between the current rates (see chart below) and a sustainable rate by 2029. The District will achieve a sustainable rate by gradually raising rates and lowering the backlog of required work. Without a backlog, the plan is to replace pipes at a pace that matches the ongoing need.

Typically, sewer replacement projects take about 21 days to complete. Sewer service is maintained at all times during the process. The District acknowledges that construction work in the street can cause traffic delays and the District thanks its customers for their patience.

**Alameda County Annual Sewer Service Charges for Single Family Residence**

**For Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

The District’s sewer service charges reflect the Board’s focus on providing great value for service now and in the future.

Oro Loma Sanitary District’s rate is 55% less than the average rate of $708/year.
Important Reminders

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

- **Green trees only.**
- Trees 6 ft. and under or trees cut into lengths 6 ft. or under.
- NO flocking, tinsel, ornaments, tree stands, or nails. (Cut up flocked trees and place in the trash.)
- Place green trees next to your green waste cart on your regular collection day.
- Bulky waste pickup is suspended during the holiday tree pickup period.
- After January 14, 2022, green trees may be cut up and placed in the green waste cart for pickup.

For further information, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.

Cooking oil clogs plumbing and sewer pipes.

Thinking of deep frying your holiday turkey this year? Don’t forget that when you pour used cooking oil—and other fats and grease—down the drain, they don’t go away. Fats, oil, and grease stay around to clog your plumbing and sewer pipes. Instead, pour oil from deep frying into a sealable container and bring it to one of Alameda County’s household hazardous waste sites.

Some Safeway and Whole Foods Markets will also accept used cooking oil. Go to stopwaste.org to find a convenient site near you.

Food goes in green cart

All food, along with food-soiled and shredded paper, garden debris, and untreated wood, go into the green waste cart. Keep liquids, glass, metal and all plastics out of your green cart.

Wrapping Paper

Ribbons and foil wrapping paper go in the trash. Regular wrapping paper goes in recycling.

Alameda County Monthly Garbage & Recycling Rates for 30–35 Gallon Cart

As of October 2021

Oro Loma provides high-quality, reliable solid waste service to its customers for some of the lowest rates in Alameda County.

Oro Loma Sanitary District’s (L1, L2) rate is 37.9% less than average rate of $43.23/month.
What’s New

In 2022, California will enact a law aimed at standardizing waste collection and recycling across the state. One of the provisions of the law, SB 1383, requires all trash, recycling, and organics carts to be a uniform color throughout the state. Presently, trash carts in the District are burgundy, recycling are gray, and organics are green. That will change to charcoal for trash, blue for recycling, and green for organics. The Board has approved $6.5M to purchase new carts. Distribution is set for late spring or early summer.

New Employees

Neal “Chuck” Biser
Chuck brings a wealth of experience to the District. He served in the US Navy, ran his own construction business, spent 22 years as an Operations Manager, and for the past 10 years has been with the SFPUC as a Senior Operator. While with SFPUC, Chuck worked at the Southeast, North Shore, Treasure Island, and Oceanside wastewater treatment plants.

Chuck has a strong maintenance background including HVAC systems, chiller systems, and disinfection systems. He also has an Associate of Science Degree in Information Technology.

Daniel Farmer
Dan is a graduate of Irvington High School in Fremont. Before joining us, for 11 years Dan was a wastewater treatment plant Operator for the City of Palo Alto. In his most recent position as a Senior Operator, Dan had a prominent role in the decommissioning of the Palo Alto’s sludge incinerator and the installation of the new dewatering building.

He developed new Standard Operating Procedures and provided extensive training on the new systems.