



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

[www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org)

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## Horizontal Levee Construction Complete

An open house on November 14, 2015 attracted over 300 people to the Oro Loma/Castro Valley Water Pollution Control Facility on Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo. They joined representatives from Save-the-Bay, the Bay Institute, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, UC Berkeley, surrounding cities, special districts, and community organizations in viewing the completion of the horizontal levee. Informative displays and video presentations explained how this innovative project is designed to protect the community from sea rise, expand natural habitat along the edge of the Bay, and further filter treated wastewater. Tours of the treatment plant were also conducted throughout the day.

Since April 2015, Save-the-Bay has been nurturing 70,000 native plant seedlings. On November 14, 2015, 50 volunteers were on hand to transplant approximately 10% of the plants onto the experimental levee. By the end of January 2016, 160 Save-the-Bay volunteers and six staff members had transplanted all 70,000 seedlings.

The completed horizontal levee, which is made of a mix of mud, gravel, sand, and wood chips, will further filter wastewater that has already been processed at the treatment facility. The levee, and an 8-million gallon holding basin behind it, will provide additional water-holding capacity during periods of heavy rain. These are designed to mimic nature's ability to filter wastewater and protect the shoreline. The entire \$9.1 million project is expected to be completed in 2017.

A short video overview of the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Project is available on YouTube, Facebook, and at [www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org).



Top to bottom: Horizontal levee tour;  
plant tour; one of many native plants on  
the levee



Save-the-Bay volunteers transplant native  
seedlings onto the horizontal levee.  
Photo: Save The Bay/Vivian Reed





## Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2016 Poster Contest

The Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2016 Poster Contest is now underway. This is a great opportunity for students to win cash prizes for themselves and their schools, while learning important lessons on how they can help protect the environment.

The theme of the Earth Day 2016 Poster Contest is **ALL-IN-ONE ORGANICS, Oro Loma Food Scraps Program**.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper products make up most of the recyclable portion of what people throw away. At the landfill, food scraps take up valuable space. If disposed of properly, food scraps and food-soiled paper products are sent to a composting facility, where they are turned into compost—a valuable resource used by landscapers and farmers.

To learn more about why the Oro Loma organics program is so important and how to participate, go to [www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org). The Oro Loma 2015-2016 calendar has additional hints to help students create a winning poster. Each month has information on the program, and tips on simple ways to participate. The 15-month calendars were delivered free to schools throughout the District in October. Students should show what goes into the organics container (green cart) at home and at school, and they could be winners in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2016 Poster Contest.

### Grade Groups:

K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12

### Prizes:

*Kindergarten:*

Recycling Star (5) . . . . . \$100

### Grade Groups 1-12:

First Place . . . . . \$700

Second Place . . . . . \$500

Third Place . . . . . \$300

Honorable Mention (2) . . . \$150

Certificates of Merit (10) . . \$ 25

All students in grades K-12 attending a school located in Oro Loma that is serviced by Waste Management for recycling are eligible to enter. The contest ends March 18, 2016.

The names of all winners will be posted on [www.oroloma.org](http://www.oroloma.org) on Earth Day, April 22, 2016, and the exact placement of First Place through Honorable Mention winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on May 25, 2016.

Matching prizes will be awarded to the winning students' schools for Recycling Star Awards and First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention Awards. No matching prizes will be awarded for Certificates of Merit.

All First, Second, Third Place, Honorable Mention and Recycling Star winners will be featured in the Oro Loma 2016-2017 calendar.

## Green Waste Collection Program—More than Just Yard Trimmings

Oro Loma Sanitary District customers have been diverting green waste from the landfill for decades. With recent state and county mandates to divert more green waste from landfills, food scraps recycling has been a focus at multi-family dwellings, businesses and schools. Food scraps and food soiled paper make up most of the waste stream. Food scraps recycling is an important step to diverting green waste from landfills, which helps reduce greenhouse gases.

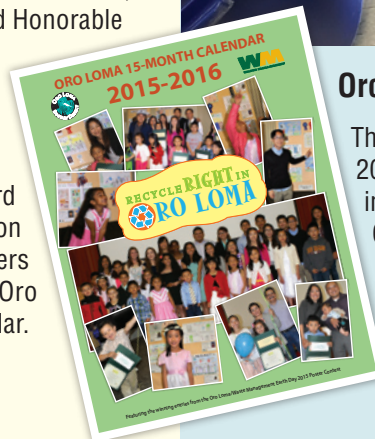
Because San Lorenzo Unified School District (SLZUSD) understands the importance of diverting recyclables and green waste from landfills, it formed a recycling committee last school year to help implement a food scraps recycling program at each of their schools. All nine SLZUSD elementary schools have green waste collection service. The middle and high schools are working to implement a food scraps recycling program by the end of the next school year.

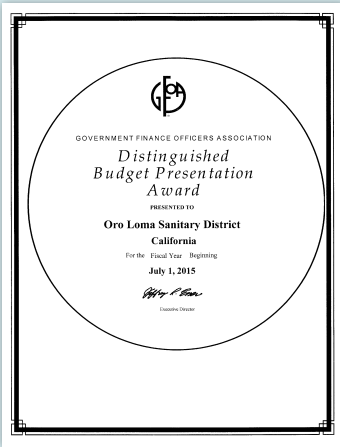
**Food Scraps Recycling Tip:** The next time you are preparing your meal or can't finish it, toss the food scraps into your green waste container, along with yard trimmings, food-soiled paper



### Oro Loma Calendars

The 15-month Oro Loma 2015-2016 calendars, featuring winners in the 2015 Earth Day Poster Contest, were delivered to schools throughout the District last fall. Winning posters from the 2016 contest will appear in the 2016-2017 calendar.





## Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The District was recently honored with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Two-Year Budget. The award covers fiscal years 2015-17 and has taken on a new format to conform with GFOA's standards and best practices in budgeting. The budget provides a great tool for the general public to learn more about the District's financial health and overall operation. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. The District congratulates Arlene Wong, Finance Manager, and Pearl Gonzalez, Accountant, for this achievement.

## Protect Your Home with a Backflow Prevention System

Oro Loma cleans its 270 miles of sewer pipe at an average rate of once every nine months and uses a mobile camera to inspect the entire system every 2.5 years. Even with these proactive practices, it is possible for an overflow to occur.



An approved backflow prevention system

In the event of a blockage in the public sewer, wastewater may back up into private laterals. A Backflow Prevention System will stop the flow from coming back into the house. To determine if you should install a system, contact the District at (510) 276-4700 during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm).

## Helpful Reminders

### Don't Connect Roof or Yard Drains to the Sewer System

Piping runoff water into the sewer system, either from house gutters or a sump pump, is against District, local, and federal regulations. During heavy rains, such illegally diverted runoff can dramatically increase the volume of water going to the treatment plant. Any illegal drain(s) must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer system and re-routed to the appropriate storm drainage system.



### "Flushable" Wipes Belong in the Trash, NOT in the Toilet

Unlike toilet paper, disposable wipes (even those labeled "flushable") do not disintegrate in water. "Disposable" or "flushable" wipes can clog home plumbing and sewer mains. Never flush anything but toilet paper and human waste down your toilet. For more information, visit <http://baywise.org/residents/your-toilet>.

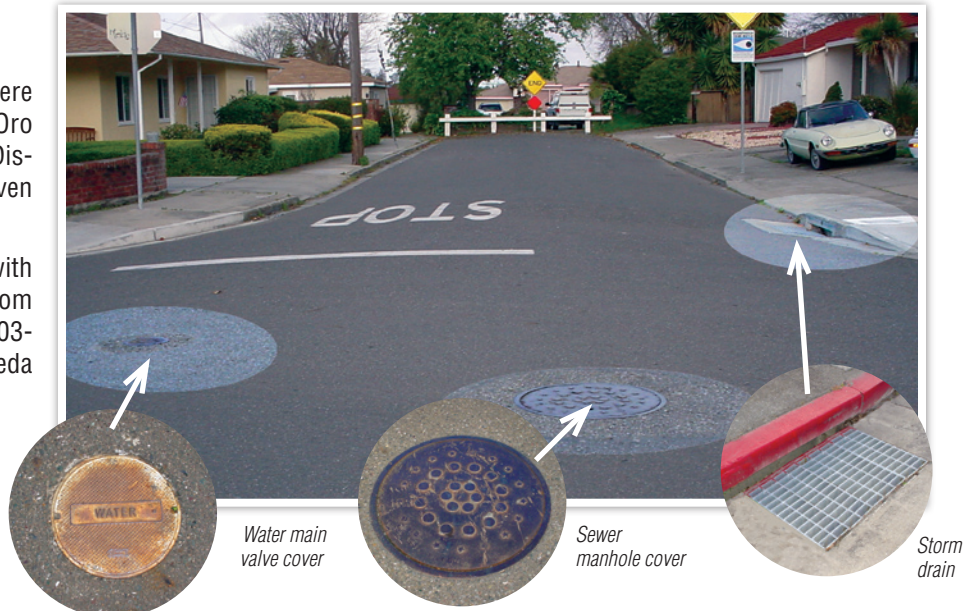
## WASTEWATER COLLECTION CORNER

## Know Your Utilities

Water is running down your street—but where is it coming from? If you're not sure, call Oro Loma at (510) 276-4700 right away. The District has a crew on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to handle emergencies.

But the problem may have nothing to do with the sewer. Maybe the water is coming from a water main valve (call EBMUD at 866-403-2683), or a clogged storm drain (call Alameda County at 510-670-5480).

Remember—If you think there might be a sewer problem, immediately call Oro Loma. If your street is flooded during a storm, call Alameda County.



Water main valve cover

Sewer manhole cover

Storm drain





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

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OAKLAND CA  
PERMIT NO. 544

Horizontal  
Levee  
Construction  
Complete

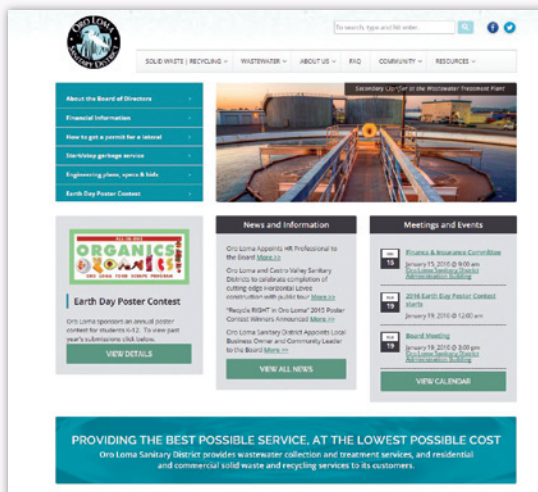


Printed on recycled paper

### Important Phone Numbers to Keep Handy

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

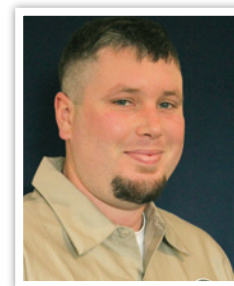
Alameda County Recycling Hotline .. (877) STOPWASTE  
Alameda County  
Household Hazardous Waste ..... (800) 606-6606



## Oro Loma Website Redesign

The new website has everything you've come to expect from Oro Loma in a new, more easily navigated format—plus a link to Facebook. The Oro Loma address, oroloma.org, remains the same. The new site is now live. Be sure to visit!

## Spotlight on Excellence



**JAMES HAYNES**

James Haynes is Oro Loma's newest Mechanic I. James is involved in keeping the District's wastewater treatment plant's infrastructure, including pumps, equipment and lift stations, working reliably. He also assists in main-

taining the District's vehicles. James started in December 2015 and already loves his new position. The high level of competence and sense of humor displayed by his new coworkers made him feel at home right from the beginning. He looks forward to learning from the other mechanics and studying for his Grade II California Water Environment Association (CWEA) certificate, which will make him eligible to apply for a Mechanic II position.

Before coming to Oro Loma, James worked five years for the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), where he fabricated custom components and equipment from blueprints.

A graduate of Arroyo High School and long-time San Leandro resident, James enjoys his new easy commute and sense of contributing to his community. On his days off, James likes to be outdoors, sometimes gardening, but also four-wheeling across rugged terrain.

## Waste Reduction Grants for Nonprofits



Funding is available to nonprofits for waste reduction in Alameda County. StopWaste is seeking to fund innovative waste reduction projects through the Grants to Nonprofits Program, now in its 18th year. The Grants to

Nonprofits Program awards funding to nonprofit organizations in Alameda County for a variety of project types.

For more information about the grants program and to download a grant application, visit [www.stopwaste.org/grants](http://www.stopwaste.org/grants) or contact Meri Soll at [msoll@stopwaste.org](mailto:msoll@stopwaste.org).

Deadline for application: March 4, 2016 at 5:00 pm