



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

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www.oro-loma.org

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Restoration Project Groundbreaking

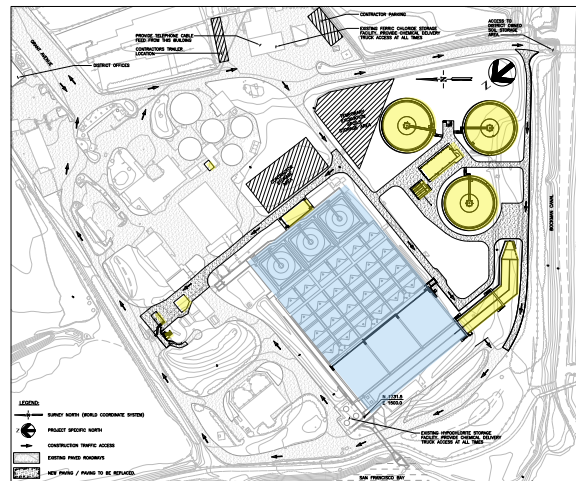
A July 15, 2004 groundbreaking ceremony at the Oro Loma Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant on Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo signaled the start of an historic \$34 million plant restoration project. The undertaking is jointly funded by the Oro Loma Sanitary District and the Castro Valley Sanitary District, which owns 25% of the plant. Present at the ceremony were board members and the general managers of both districts, as well as representatives of HDR Engineering, project designers, and Monterey Mechanical of Oakland, which will be responsible for the project's construction.

The project, which is funded through cash reserves and future cash flows, is the largest in the District's 96-year history, and it is unique in that its intent is to restore the 20 million gallon per day capacity of the original plant design. The original treatment plant capacity was reduced over time because of tightening environmental requirements on the plant's effluent quality standards. Over the last forty years, the District's ability to treat wastewater has essentially been cut by 25%.

In addition to three new 120-foot diameter secondary clarifiers, the plant will gain two new bar screens, an expanded influent pump station, a new chemically-enhanced primary treatment system, aeration basin modifications, bypass channel modifications, a new secondary solids pumping system, sludge heating improvements, and an extension of the existing disinfection channel. All of these improvements will, as Oro Loma's General Manager Mike Cameron said, "... provide plant staff with all the tools it needs to create a quality discharge now and well into the future." The project is a sound investment in the water quality of the San Francisco Bay.

In addition to securing adequate capacity for modern discharge requirements, the project provides redundancy in several key process units, which will allow a standby unit to process wastewater during periods of maintenance on parallel equipment.

Construction is scheduled to start in mid-September 2004 and will take approximately three



Restoration Project Components:

Yellow: New construction. Blue: Existing facilities.



years to complete. There will be no interruption of service during this period. Work in the initial intake area, the boiler room, and the chemically enhanced primary treatment (CEPT) area will begin first. Pile driving for construction of the three new secondary clarifiers will begin in October, 2004 and will continue for approximately two months.

Representatives from Oro Loma, Castro Valley, HDR Engineering, and Monterey Mechanical stand ready to start turning the first dirt in the \$34 million capacity restoration project.

Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest Winners Honored



The thirty winners in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest were honored on May 11, 2004, at the San Leandro Marina Community Center.

The ceremony, which marked the tenth year that Oro Loma and Waste Management have teamed up to sponsor the contest, held a great deal of excitement for the winners. For the first time in contest history, students had not been told what prize they had won. They knew they had won one of five prizes in their grade category, but which one? Would it be one of the two \$100 Honorable Mentions, a \$200 Third Prize, a \$300 Second Prize, or a \$500 First Prize? Whatever their prize, they knew they were special. Out of the over 2,600 entries submitted, their's had been chosen. They also knew they were helping their schools since their prizes would be matched by equal cash amounts to be given to their schools.

The 2004 contest was different in another way, too. While previous contests had given students a slogan to use in producing their posters, this year, students were asked to create their own slogan and then to illustrate it. Starting with the phrase, "When I recycle, I..." students were asked to consider what happens when they recycle. And they came up with some wonderful ideas – from saving the environment, to setting a good example, to having fun with friends.

As always, choosing winners from among so many wonderful entries was very difficult. This year, that task was expertly handled by Domingo Daquioag, Art Educator at the Sun Gallery, Hayward; Diana Lynn, Director of Exhibitions, Green Shutter Gallery, Hayward; and Clarice Roberts, a member of many regional and national art associations.

Oro Loma 2004-2005 calendars, featuring a selection of winning posters, will be produced and distributed for free to all schools in the Oro Loma Sanitary District.



Oro Loma Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest Winners

PRIZE		STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER
K-1	1st	Ardeniel Galvez	Lorenzo Manor School	Mrs. White
	2nd	Karl Mena	Calvary Lutheran School	Ms. Blank
	3rd	Melissa Szeto	Del Rey School	Mrs. Preece
	HM	Alexis Bowman	Calvary Lutheran School	Ms. Blank
	HM	Wilbur Shi	Dayton School	Mrs. Honeyman
2-3	1st	Rebecca Smouse	East Avenue School	Mr. Patusco
	2nd	Sarah Silva	Calvary Lutheran School	Mrs. Luehrs
	3rd	Christopher Siat	St. Joachim's School	Ms. Andrade
	HM	Pamela Szeto	Del Rey School	Mr. Tealdi
	HM	Resham Singh Bhullar	Lorenzo Manor School	Mrs. Peterson
4-5	1st	Christina Archuleta	Hesperian School	Mr. Groves
	2nd	Theodore Lau	Bay School	Mr. Carrion
	3rd	Rosanna Ren	Dayton School	Ms. Craig
	HM	Kevin Low	Dayton School	Mrs. Vartia
	HM	Jeffrey Mach	Chinese Christian School	Mr. Fong
6-8	1st	Marlon Estoesta	Edendale Middle School	Ms. Nelson
	2nd	Joshua Wildman	Bohannon Middle School	Mr. Galli
	3rd	Fanny Du	Washington Manor MS	Mrs. Schulte/ Mrs. Rouse
	HM	Patrick Quibol	St. John's School	Mrs. Wetherell
	HM	Michelle Wong	Washington Manor MS	Ms. Schulte/ Ms. Hyun
9-10	1st	Jason Gagnon	San Leandro High School	Mr. Laughlin
	2nd	Armida Maria	Hayward High School	Ms. Waschewsky
	3rd	Jessica Sikoryak	Hayward High School	Mrs. Hsiao-Frates
	HM	Leeza Bieschke	Arroyo High School	Ms. Preston/ Ms. Bruno
	HM	Mellisa Gomes	Hayward High School	Mrs. Hsiao-Frates
11-12	1st	Polly Louie	San Leandro High School	Ms. Hodges
	2nd	Eric Archuleta	San Leandro High School	Mr. Laughlin
	3rd	Patrick Zhou	San Leandro High School	Ms. Hodges
	HM	Anna Yee	San Leandro High School	Mr. Laughlin
	HM	Annie Song	San Leandro High School	Ms. Burger

Mercury Awareness

Jeff Carson

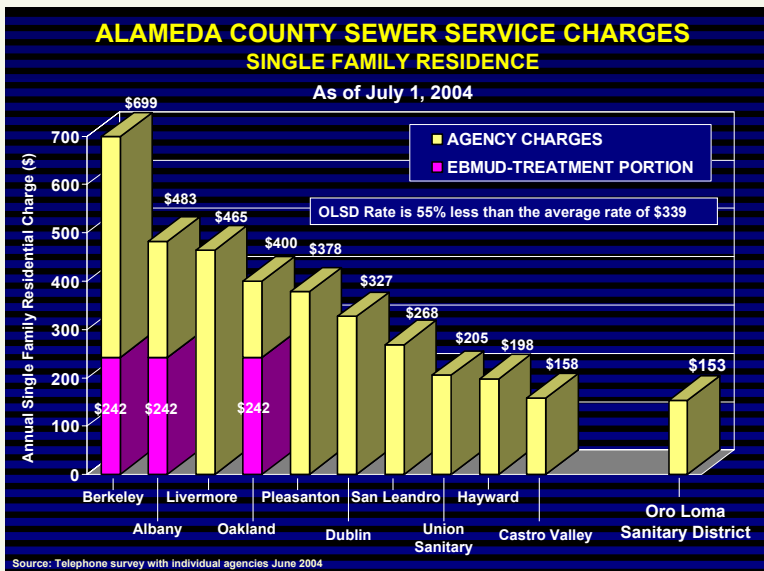
The potential environmental effects of mercury continue to be a focus of state and federal regulators. More than 90% of the mercury currently in the San Francisco Bay came from the gold mining era. Today, soil erosion and runoff is the largest source of new mercury entering the Bay. Bay Area wastewater treatment plants combined discharge contributes less than 1% of new mercury into the Bay. Locally, Oro Loma Sanitary District, which serves a population of 150,000, discharges less than 13 ounces per year.

Much of the concern focuses on fish caught in the San Francisco Bay since mercury builds up in fish and fish consumption is one pathway for human and wildlife exposure to mercury. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends against consuming fish with mercury concentrations greater than 1 microgram per gram of fish tissue. The overall average concentration of mercury in fish caught in the San Francisco Bay is only one-third of the FDA recommended level. Nevertheless, regulators caution that daily consumption extended over a long period of time may be harmful. Humans, especially pregnant mothers, who consume excessive amounts of fish from the Bay, may be at risk of adverse effects of methyl mercury on the nervous system. However, at present, there is no evidence of mercury toxicity in San Francisco Bay Area residents.

Mercury occurs naturally in the environment and is a byproduct of burning coal and other natural fuels. Programs such as the Clean Water Action Plan and the Clean Air Act regulate the amount of mercury released into the environment. As Oro Loma customers, you can help prevent mercury from entering the sewer system and waterways. Dispose of all thermometers and materials containing mercury at your local hazardous materials collection facility. Remember, you can make a difference!

ORO LOMA SEWER RATES LOWEST AGAIN!

Since 1997, when reporting began, Oro Loma's sewer service rates have remained the lowest in the area.



President's Message

A few months ago, Oro Loma introduced single-stream recycling and the use of environmentally-friendly, compressed natural gas trucks. Because recycling became easier by eliminating the need to pre-sort materials, some customers who had recycled little in the past increased their recycling efforts dramatically. In fact, many customers who were regularly recycling increased their efforts and requested larger-capacity recycling carts. Oro Loma customers are definitely doing their part in the environmental fight for a cleaner tomorrow.

It has been over ten years since recycling was introduced in Oro Loma. In spite of that effort and much to our surprise, we determined that most schools in our District were simply not putting much effort into recycling! Because schools generate a great deal of recyclable waste, mostly in the form of classroom paper and cafeteria



School representatives are thrilled to receive awards for implementing successful recycling programs.

associated food packaging, Oro Loma decided to address this issue directly. We formed a partnership with the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Waste Management of Alameda County to both educate school children about recycling, and to reward the schools that implement recycling programs and achieve specific recycling goals. As a result, at the July 20, 2004 Board meeting, seven schools within the San Lorenzo School District were awarded \$4,000 each. The following schools — San Lorenzo High School, Hesperian School, Bay School, Bohannon Middle School, Dayton School, Grant School, and Hillside Elementary School — met or exceeded the goal of 30% waste reduction during the 2003-2004 school year. These schools reported to us that their success was due to actively involving the students, janitorial staff, and teachers in their programs. An added bonus for these schools is that as their recycling efforts increase, their garbage bills decrease! Truly a win-win situation.

Learn more about our other recycling programs in the Fall 2004 Newsletter!

Agenda and Minutes Online

Want to know what will be discussed at the next board meeting? Did you miss the last meeting but still want to know what happened? Don't worry — help is only a few clicks away. All board meeting agendas and minutes are available online at www.oroloma.org.



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2600 Grant Avenue
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ORO LOMA
EARTH DAY 2004
POSTER CONTEST
WINNERS
See page 2

Spotlight on Excellence: Pankey's Radiator Shop



District Inspector Jeff Carson (left) and Pankey's owner Jim Burns (right).

On June 1, 2004, Jim Burns, owner of Pankey's Radiator Shop, was honored with a Resolution of Appreciation by the Oro Loma Sanitary District Board for his efforts to reduce the amount of copper, lead, and zinc being discharged by his shop into the sewer system.

District Industrial Waste Inspector, Jeff Carson, said Mr. Burns and his staff performed admirably, purchasing specialized equipment and altering their operations to curtail the discharge of heavy metals into the wastewater stream.

In addition to the local honor, Pankey's received an award for Best Small Industrial Facility in Northern California from the California Water Environment Association.

Backflow Prevention System

A Backflow Prevention System (BPS) prevents sewage from flowing back into a building should there be a blockage in the lateral or an overflow in the main sewer line. The system consists of two parts: the backwater check valve (to allow wastewater to only flow away from the structure) and the overflow device (to allow an emergency escape path for wastewater).

Oro Loma requires a BPS on all new construction; on any replacement or major repair to a lateral; in structures where the upstream manhole rim is lower than 6 inches above the lowest

drain; on all structures where the property has been damaged by a blockage in the sewer main or lateral; and in existing structures when additional plumbing fixtures are installed or when the structure's floor area is increased by more than 25%.



Ken Ross, Engineering Aide, holds a backwater check valve, which keeps overflow wastewater from the sewer main from entering a structure.

ALL-IN-ONE RECYCLING IS EASY!

ALL Recycling Goes into ONE Paper Bag

1 YES

ALL of these go into a paper bag:

- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles and containers (type 1 and 2 and number marked 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7)
- Newspapers
- Aluminum and tin cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Empty aerosol cans
- Mixed paper

2 NO

- Garbage
- Hazardous waste
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Sealed pizza boxes
- Wide-mouth plastic tubs
- Plastic toys
- Crystal or beverage glasses
- Mirrors or window panes
- Light bulbs
- Diapers

Put paper bag in the recycling bin or cart



Questions? Call: (510) 613-8700

Multi-Family Recycling Program

Oro Loma is launching a pilot program to encourage residents in multi-family units to recycle. Residents will receive paper bags to use for their All-in-One-Recycling, along with a program flyer and a reminder magnet. The paper bags will be printed with illustrations of the kinds of materials accepted for recycling. If you are a property owner or manager of a multi-family building and would like more information, call (510) 613-8700.