



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.oroloma.org

Fall 2004

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Multi-Family Recycling Program

Last March, Oro Loma introduced a new recycling program that made it easier for customers to recycle. All recyclable materials, including paper, cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, glass and plastic containers, can now go into a single recycling cart; there is no need anymore to separate these items. Now, Oro Loma has launched a campaign to encourage residents of multi-family units to take advantage of the new program. In addition to helping preserve valuable

natural resources and reducing the need for landfill space, use of a recycling bin by multi-family residents can mean fewer unsightly overflowing garbage containers.

For property owners, there are even more advantages. Owners pay for recycling on their property tax bill. Adding to their recycling efforts will not increase that cost, but doing so could significantly reduce garbage fees.

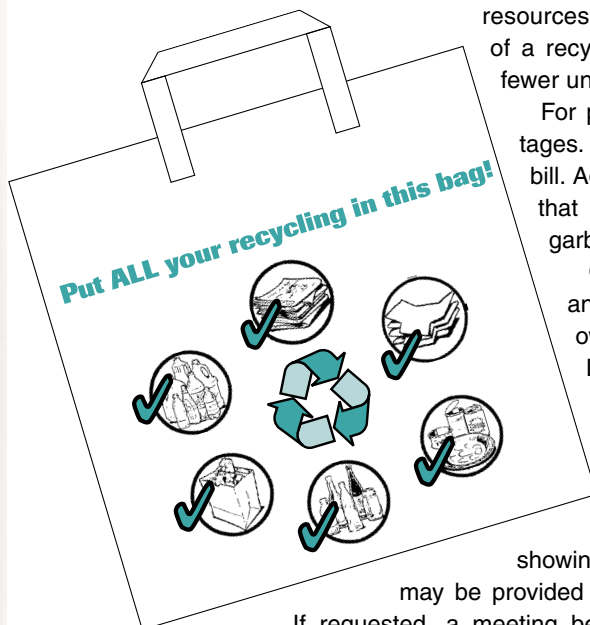
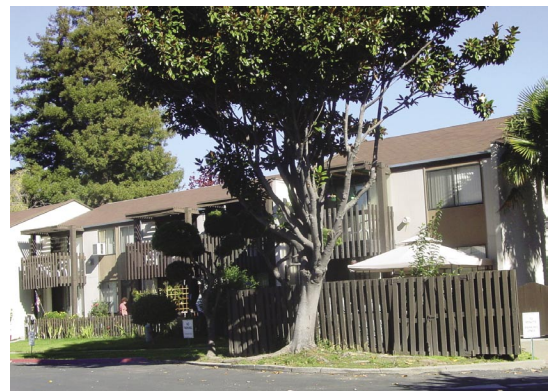
Over the next two years, a team from Oro Loma and Waste Management will contact most of the owners of the 360 residential complexes in Oro Loma that have five or more units. Owners will be offered a no-cost field call and site survey to set up the most efficient recycling program. Paper bags for recycling, informational fliers, and refrigerator magnets for tenants will be provided. White recycling bins with decals

showing what is and what is not accepted for recycling may be provided by Waste Management at no additional cost.

If requested, a meeting between the recycling team and residents may also be arranged to explain the program and answer questions. Follow-up calls and visits will be made as needed.

To schedule an appointment or to request more information, property owners or managers should call Oro Loma at (510) 276-4700 or Waste Management at (510) 613-2104.

Recycling bins can cut down on unsightly overflowing garbage containers. The white bins come with decals that show which items can be recycled and which cannot. It is important not to contaminate the recycling bins with garbage or items that cannot be recycled such as plastic bags, Styrofoam, food-soiled cardboard or paper, and diapers.

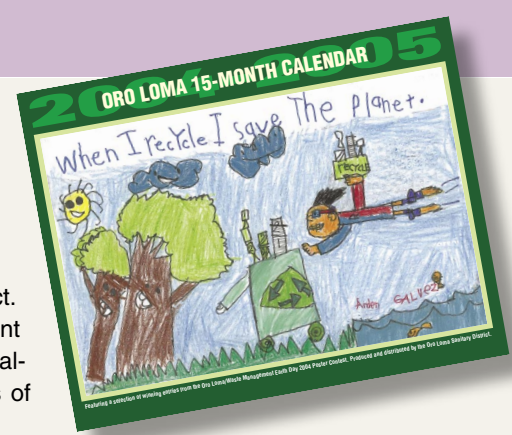


2004-2005 Calendars Delivered

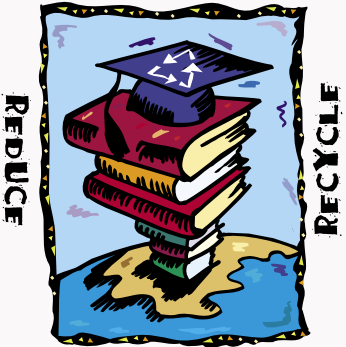
Free Oro Loma 15-month calendars have been delivered to schools throughout the District. Each month features one of the winning posters from the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest. All the winning posters are printed on the back of the calendar. By printing and distributing these colorful calendars, which highlight the benefits of recycling, Oro Loma demonstrates its support for the community and for local education.

Calendars may also be picked up at the District office at 2600 Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo.

Included in the 2004-2005 calendar is an entry form for the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest. Winning posters from the 2005 contest may be featured in the Oro Loma 2005-2006 calendar.



COOL SCHOOLS



Oro Loma Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest

For the eleventh year in a row, Oro Loma and Waste Management have teamed up to sponsor a poster contest that provides students an opportunity to compete for cash prizes while they learn about recycling.

The Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest is set to kick off January 18, 2005. At that time, free poster paper with an entry form printed on the back will be available at District schools, at Oro Loma, and at Waste Management. Students may also use their own poster paper as long as it measures *exactly* 11x17-inches. An entry form is printed in the Oro Loma 2004-2005 Calendar, and one will be available online for download at www.oraloma.org on January 1, 2005. If either of these entry forms is used, it must be securely taped to the back of the student's poster. Entries will be accepted from January 18, 2005 until the contest ends on March 18, 2005.

The poster contest is free and open to all students, grades K-12, attending a school in the Oro Loma Sanitary District. Students may submit only one entry. Cash prizes of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$200 for third place, and two prizes of \$100 for honorable mention will be awarded. Matching cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students' schools. In addition, 15 non-monetary Certificates of Merit will be awarded to the finalists in each grade category. Schools that submit qualified entries but do not have a cash winner will receive a \$100 Participation Award.

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The slogan for this year's contest is: **Cool Schools Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** We know how important it is to practice the 3 Rs of recycling—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—at home, but it is just as important to recycle at school. For the 2005 contest, we are asking students to show how they and their teachers and school administrators can practice the 3 Rs of recycling in school. A list of suggestions is printed in the Oro Loma 2004-2005 Calendar and will be available online at www.oraloma.org. There are many ways to practice the 3 Rs, and we want students to show what *they* think is the best and most creative way to recycle in the classroom and at school. Posters will also be judged on originality and artistic content. The list of cash winners in each grade category will be announced on the contest hotline at (510) 613-2855 and on www.oraloma.org on Earth Day, April 22, 2005. The specific placement of winners within each grade category will be unveiled at an awards ceremony on May 10, 2005.

For frequently asked questions and a list of eligible schools, visit www.oraloma.org or call the contest hotline at (510) 613-2855.

Tips for a "Green" Holiday

When shopping for presents or preparing for the holiday season, don't forget your mother—Mother Earth, that is. Here are some ideas to help keep the holidays happy and green:



- Bring your own bags when you go to the store. Consolidate gifts into one large bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.
- Be creative! Package holiday gifts in reusable containers. Make the "wrapper" part of the gift.
- To stop unwanted catalogs and junk mail, write the Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 908, Farmingdale, NY 11735.
- Stop waste before it starts. Consider an item's packaging and environmental impact before you purchase it. Look for products with the least amount of packaging. Avoid individually wrapped items and ask clerks not to bag small purchases.
- Show your strength as a consumer—buy items made with recycled material. The kinds of product choices we make affect manufacturing decisions.
- Buy used products and goods when they will do the job as well as a new item. They cost less, and using them helps reduce waste and conserve energy and raw materials.
- Give your holiday tree a new life as useful mulch. See the back page for holiday recycling information.
- Recycle gift wrapping.



Resident's Message

Rate Hike Likely for San Leandro Residents

At its June 21, 2004 meeting, the San Leandro City Council passed a resolution which could cost San Leandro residents plenty! In a 7-0 vote, the Council approved a resolution intended to transfer Oro Loma's garbage responsibilities to the City on or about September 2007. Oro Loma has provided garbage services to San Leandro residents within its service territory since 1949.

The City's action would transfer approximately \$350,000 per year in franchise fees away from Oro Loma to the City. If successful, Oro Loma would have to make up the loss by substantially increasing sewer rates. This is because Oro Loma uses these franchise fees to help keep its sewer service charges the lowest in Alameda County. Oro Loma's recycling charges are the same as they were in 1993, while the City's garbage rates are about 24% higher than those charged by the District. If the City takes over the franchise, San Leandro residents are likely to incur substantial cost increases for both sewer and garbage services. Customers who have opinions on this matter should contact their City councilperson.

2005 Recycling Schedules Mailed

The 2005 recycling schedules have been mailed. If you haven't received yours, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710. Schedules are also available online at www.oroloma.org.

| IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS | | Oro Loma 2005 Recycling Schedule #2 | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING INFORMATION Waste Management (510) 613-8710 RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE INFORMATION Waste Management (510) 613-8710 ANNUAL BULKY WASTE CLEANUP APPOINTMENT Waste Management (510) 613-8710 GENERAL RECYCLING INFORMATION Home Composting ("FoodBin") (510) 444-6504 Dial-a-Rubbish ("SMART") Center (510) 606-2303 County Recycling Hotline (800) 777-STOPWASTE GARBAGE/ GREEN WASTE DROP-OFF Dial-a-Rubbish Station (510) 606-2303 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF For dropoff hours: (800) 606-6066 | | | |
| IMPORTANT COLLECTION INFORMATION Trucks and green waste are collected at outside EVERY week on your pickup day. Recycling is collected EVERY OTHER week (green-labeled weeks on recycling calendar on your pickup day). Write your pickup day here: _____ The following collection materials are available in 2005: Labels: Blue: Recyclables; Green: Yard Waste; Yellow: Household Appliances; Red: Electronics; White: Miscellaneous. If your pickup day falls on a holiday or other day during that week, your pickup will occur on the next day during that week. | | | |

PLANT CAPACITY RESTORATION PROJECT TIMELINE

JULY 19, 2004

1,000 DAYS

APRIL 15, 2007

Construction on the Oro Loma Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project began July 19, 2004. The historic \$34 million project is scheduled to be completed on April 15, 2007, a period of 1,000 days. The project is funded entirely by Oro Loma through cash reserves accumulated over years of sound fiscal planning.

Significant progress has already been made on several aspects of the project.

Bar Screen

As wastewater flows down a main channel to the plant, it passes through a screen that removes large objects that could damage

the plant's pumps and other equipment. Oro Loma now has one screen. As part of the restoration project, a second channel and screen will be added. Excavation for that channel is now complete.

Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT)

Primary treatment of wastewater involves a process in which solids are allowed to settle out of the wastewater stream. Oro Loma is adding a procedure to help hasten the process. The CEPT process involves the injection of ferric chloride into the incoming wastewater stream. The chemical creates a gelatin-like substance that helps the settling of solids. The foundation and walls of the CEPT facility are completed and the chemical tanks are in place.

Digester Heating Building

Sludge from wastewater treatment is broken down in a series of biological processes. Sludge from the wastewater process is collected and sent to the digesters where an anaerobic environment further breaks down the sludge. Sludge in the digester must be kept at 98.6° for 20 days. A new digester heating building will

house a modern boiler system that is easier to service and is more efficient in maintaining a constant temperature during winter months. The structure for the building is now complete and the boiler is in place.

Pile Driving

Since the Oro Loma wastewater treatment facility is built on the shore of San Francisco Bay, care must be taken to ensure the stability of any new construction. To accomplish this, 1,100 friction piles will be driven into the soil. These piles, which will be driven to a depth of between 40 and 60 feet, will support the boiler building, the three new clarifiers, and two new pump stations. Pile driving began on November 8 and will continue for two to three months.



Pile driving



Digester heating building addition with forms for new walls



Oro Loma Sanitary District
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**ORO LOMA
EARTH DAY 2005
POSTER CONTEST
See page 2**

Spotlight on Excellence: Oro Loma Employees

Oro Loma honored its employees at a recognition dinner that was held on October 23.

Recognized for their years of outstanding service were:

- Robert Bressler, 25 years
- Todd DeBenning, 25 years
- Rudy Vera, 20 years
- Ray Busch, 15 years
- Arlene Wong, 10 years
- Scott Beckman, 5 years
- Scott Sawyer, 5 years
- Manuel Talledo-Garcia, 5 years

The District has 46 full-time and two part-time employees. Their jobs include maintaining and repairing 300 miles of sewer lines, operating a wastewater treatment plant that processes 15,000,000 gallons of water a day, and adminis-

trating a far-reaching recycling and solid waste collection service. Many employees have been with the District for five or more years and have received numerous awards and commendations for their work. Oro Loma is fortunate to have a workforce with such skill and dedication.



Oro Loma District Manager, Michael Cameron, presents Rudy Vera a Certificate of Recognition for his 20 years of service with the District. As Senior Lead Worker, Rudy is in charge of one of the three crews that maintain Oro Loma's sanitary sewer system. He is also responsible for training other employees in the use of a piece of equipment called a hydro-jetter that uses high-pressure jets of water to blast grease and debris from the walls of sewer mains.

Recycling in Schools

Schools in Alameda County generate 4% of the waste deposited in landfills annually. That's 60,000 tons of waste.

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority has a program in which Alameda County School Districts that commit to district-wide recycling can receive the following services at no cost:

- Technical assistance in designing and/or enhancing a recycling program for the district
- Developing benchmarking tools
- Adapting or developing training materials and conducting training sessions
- FREE program promotional/information materials
- Recycling/environmental education services

For the School Year 2004-05, the San Lorenzo Unified School District will receive services from the Agency. Oro Loma is helping with the effort and the District applauds San Lorenzo Unified's commitment to recycling.

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

What?

- Green trees only
- No snow flocking
- No ornaments
- Lengths of 6 feet or under
- No tinsel
- No tree stands or nails

Note: Flocked trees cannot be recycled. However, they will be picked up at no additional cost January 3-14, 2005.

When?

• **January 3-14 2005**, on your regular collection day.

Where?

• At the curb, next to your green cart.

After January 14, trees will not be collected curbside. To recycle green trees after this date, cut them up and place them in your green cart. Flocked trees must be cut up and placed inside your burgundy garbage cart after January 14.

