



ORO LOMA NEWS

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www.oroloma.org

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Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest

The thirty winners in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest have been chosen. The question of who won what prize in each category will remain a mystery until the awards ceremony on May 10.

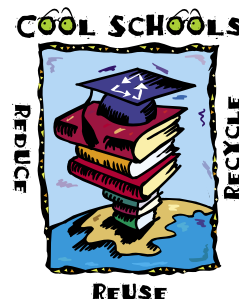
Schools in Alameda County generate 60,000 tons of waste each year. By practicing the 3Rs of recycling – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – in the classroom, students, teachers, and administrators can significantly reduce the amount of trash that goes to landfills each year. The slogan of the Oro Loma Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest – **Cool Schools Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** – asked students to consider how they might accomplish this task.

As with recent contests, the response to this, the eleventh annual poster contest, was overwhelming. Almost 2,700 students from 34 schools submitted entries. Choosing from among so many outstanding posters was a daunting task indeed. Final judging fell to Noelle Hartshorn of the Castro Valley Sanitary District; Robin Plutchok of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority; and Domingo Daquiao, an art educator at the Sun Gallery in Hayward.

The poster contest was free and open to all students, grades K-12, attending a school in the

Oro Loma Sanitary District. 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 at the May 10 awards ceremony, which will be held at the San Leandro Marina Community Center. Matching cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students' schools. In addition, 15 Certificates of Merit will be awarded to the finalists in each grade category. These are not cash prizes. Schools that submit qualified entries but do not have a cash winner will be presented a \$100 Participation Award.

All winning posters will be printed in the Oro Loma 2005-2006 calendar, and a selection of posters will be featured on individual months. The calendars will be available in October.



Noelle Hartshorn, Robin Plutchok, and Domingo Daquiao make the hard decision in choosing the winners.

Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest Winners (Prize Placement Will Be Announced on May 10, 2005)

Grade K-1: Allyson Francis, (Calvary Lutheran School); Amparo Contreras, (Del Rey Elementary School); Ashika John, (Dayton School); John Thoene, (Dayton School); Melissa Szeto, (Del Rey Elementary School)

Grade 2-3: Jasmin Vargas, (Corvallis); Jonathan Chan, (Dayton School); Owen Chin, (Dayton School); Saul Mata, (Colonial Acres); Yanet Medina, (Thomas Jefferson)

Grade 4-5: Katherine Chong, (Corvallis); Kayla Turney, (East Avenue School); Kimberly Szeto, (Del Rey Elementary School); Manuel Carbajal Jr., (Grant); Michelle Nguyen, (Dayton School)

Grade 6-8: Allison Anilao, (Bohannon Middle School); Jonathan Imson, (St. Joachim School); Katherine Siat, (St. Joachim School); Kristen Aceves, (St. Joachim School); Mary Hoang, (St. John's School)

Grade 9-10: Abel Kifle, (Lighthouse Christian); Alexander Go-Oco, (Hayward High School); Barry (Rongsheng) Chen, (Arroyo High School); Justin Briones, (Lighthouse Christian); Natasha Barredo, (San Leandro High School)

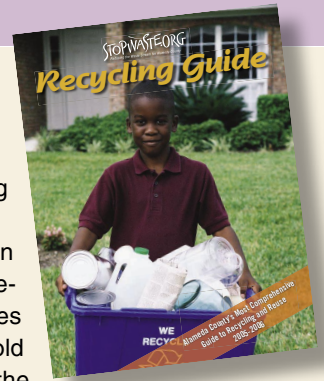
Grade 11-12: Anny Li, (San Leandro High School); Grace Chan, (San Leandro High School); James Matthew Gan, (San Leandro High School); Janet Tam, (Arroyo High School); Marco Coronado, (San Leandro High School)

Alameda County 2005-2006 Recycling Guide

Oro Loma has a comprehensive curbside recycling program to recycle paper, glass and plastic containers, metal and empty aerosol cans, green waste, and used motor oil. But what if you need to recycle something Oro Loma cannot accept for recycling? Say you are remodeling your home and have construction debris, used appliances, plumbing fixtures, and old carpeting you would like to recycle. Where do you go? What about that garage full of audio tapes, books, CDs, exercise equipment, and clothes you haven't worn in years? And what about all those packing "peanuts" that now fill three large trash bags? This is where the

Alameda County 2005-2006 Recycling Guide comes to the rescue!

The guide is full of information on how to practice the 4Rs—Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Rot—as well as resources for recycling every imaginable household item from aluminum to zippers. And the best part is: It's free to Alameda County residents by calling (877) STOPWASTE. An electronic version of the guide is also available in pdf format at www.stopwaste.org



Spotlight on Excellence: John Redmond

What can you say about someone who has loyally served an organization for thirty years?

Actually, quite a lot, especially if the man is Oro Loma's Maintenance Supervisor, John Redmond.

From those who have known John the longest to those who have just recently joined Oro Loma, the verdict is the same—John is one of those all-around good guys that everyone loves to work with, and someone who will be sorely missed when he retires—which, in John's case, is this spring.

What makes John so easy to work with? Maybe it's because he's innately likeable, a hard-worker who really cares about people and his job, someone who isn't afraid to admit an error or let someone else take credit for a job well done. Probably, though, part of the reason John is so universally liked is because he makes it a point to do the worrying for others. Need a difficult job done right? John will figure out how to do it – no need to worry. Want to make sure you are getting the best deal at the best price? Ask John. Even though he isn't required to, John carries a pager so he can be reached 24/7 to always keep tabs on what he considers to be "his" plant.

Though John does not have an engineering degree, his affinity for anything mechanical has made him a valuable member of the plant restoration planning team. A modification recommended by John to the cogenerator cooling system allows all three digesters to operate efficiently throughout the year, saving the District money it would have had to spend on natural gas. A filtration system recommended by John has extended the period between oil changes and major maintenance on the digester engines.

Before coming to the maintenance department 15 years ago, John worked as a plant operator, so he really understands what it takes to keep a wastewater treatment plant running efficiently. Having an encyclopedic memory for suppliers and contacts also helps.

John's passion for anything with a motor, from motor homes to power boats to vintage cars, will serve him well as he blasts into retirement. Rumor has it that he even added a jump seat to the go-cart for his new granddaughter.

Easy-going, laid back, and always ready for a good laugh, John will be missed by those fortunate enough to have worked with him. One thing is sure, once he's left the District, no one will ever ask, "John Who?"



John Redmond and wife, Deb.

Bay-Friendly Gardening

Landscaping can add beauty and shade while raising property values. Conventional gardening, however, often comes at a steep price. Large lawns and non-native plants require abundant irrigation and heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides. These chemicals run off into gutters and creeks and eventually into San Francisco Bay, where they can accumulate with devastating results.

Bay-friendly gardening, on the other hand, works with the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay watershed to provide healthy and beautiful landscaping that:

- Nurtures healthy soils;
- Reduces fertilizer use;
- Conserves water, energy, and topsoil;
- Uses integrated pest management to minimize chemical use;
- Reduces storm water runoff;
- Creates wildlife habitat; and
- Reduces green waste.

Creating a bay-friendly garden is easier than you might think and once established, a bay-friendly garden often requires less maintenance than a conventional garden.

"Bay-Friendly Gardening" is a 70+ page how-to guide that provides gardening tips, a design survey, profiles of East Bay gardens, and much more. It may be ordered at www.stopwaste.org. The publication is free to Alameda County residents and may be purchased by non-residents for \$10.61. The guide is also available in pdf format at the same Web site. To order your copy by phone, call (510) 444-SOIL. A more detailed guide is available for the professional landscaper. This publication, "Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines," may be ordered in the same way as "Bay Friendly Gardening."



resident's Message

The largest construction project in Oro Loma's history—the \$34 million Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project—is well on its way to being completed on time and on budget in the spring of 2007. This impressive feat would not be possible without the careful planning and expertise shown by Oro Loma's staff. For an update on the project, see the article below.

Oro Loma, using cash reserves accumulated over years of sound fiscal planning, is funding the restoration project. The District had hoped to make use of low-interest California State Revolving Loans, which have historically been made available to districts for projects such as this. Unfortunately, these types of loans are not currently available to the District. Rather than mire the District with expensive bond debt, the District made up the shortfall with a residential rate increase initiated in July 2003. Additionally, while other municipalities typically enlist the help of expensive consulting firms to manage projects such as this, Oro Loma decided to make use of its own highly-trained and qualified

engineers, thereby saving money and placing the responsibility, accountability, and intimate project knowledge with District staff.

The last increase to sewer rates charged to businesses and industrial users in the District occurred in 1991. It is now necessary to raise these non-residential sewer rates. The rate increase will be phased in over a three-year period, starting July 1, 2005. Even with the increase, Oro Loma commercial, industrial, and institutional customers will pay significantly less in sewer rates than those doing business in the cities of Hayward and San Leandro. For updated rates, visit www.oroloma.org.

No one likes a rate increase, no matter how necessary, but we trust our non-residential customers will accept this extra financial burden with the same understanding that our residential customers have shown.

On a lighter note, I'd like to extend my and the Board's congratulations to the winners of the eleventh annual Oro Loma Earth Day Poster Contest. I am always impressed and inspired by the talent shown by the students in our District. With such creativity, I can't help but feel that our future is in good hands.

PLANT CAPACITY RESTORATION PROJECT TIMELINE

JULY 19, 2004

1,000 DAYS

APRIL 15, 2007



Construction of Oro Loma's historic \$34 million plant capacity restoration project remains on-time and on-budget. Below is a summary of major achievements so far.

Bar-screens: The first of the two new bar-screens that will replace the present single screen is in its final testing stage. The new channel has been built; the screen has been installed; and the electrical hook-ups are complete. The old screen should be out and the new one running by the end of May.

Influent Pump Station: Wastewater travels mainly by gravity to the treatment plant. Once at the plant, the water must be lifted so that it can again flow by gravity through the plant. At present, Oro Loma has four pumps that can lift over 100 million gallons of water a day. Since the plant only processes an average 16.5 million gallons of wastewater per day, it would seem these pumps are more than adequate to handle the load. The problem is that the 16.5 million gallons is for an average *dry* day. When it rains, the amount of water entering the plant goes up significantly. This is true even though storm water is not carried directly through the District's wastewater system.

After a series of severe storms, the plant may be required to handle up to 106 million gallons of water per day. Federal guidelines require that the District be able to pump its highest flows with its largest pump out-of-service. Thus, a new pump is being added that can pump 35 million gallons of wastewater on its own. The structure for this pump is now half completed, and the necessary 30-inch influent piping is in place.

Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT): The new CEPT facility, which will help hasten the process by which solids settle out of wastewater, is now complete.

Digester Heating Building: The new digester heating building is complete. The building houses a new boiler, as well as three new heat exchangers that will efficiently maintain heating temperatures required by the digesters.

Disinfection Channel: The bottom of the expanded disinfection channel is now complete and the walls are under construction.

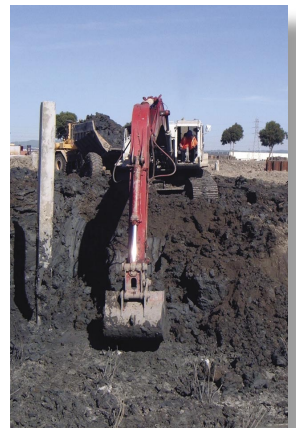
Pile Driving: Pile driving of 1,100 concrete piles is now complete and

excavation on the new secondary clarifiers can begin.

New Secondary Clarifiers: This is the most time-consuming component of the restoration project.

One of the last stages of the wastewater treatment process, before the treated water is chlorinated and sent for discharge into the San Francisco Bay, involves the secondary clarifier tanks. Here the last of the solids are separated out of the wastewater stream. At present, Oro Loma has three tanks that are rectangular in shape, each with a 90-foot diameter treatment area; they are 9-feet deep. These clarifiers no longer meet modern treatment standards, and they will be replaced by three 120-foot diameter round clarifiers that are 18-feet deep. The work on the 700 piles required by the new clarifiers has been completed, and excavation for the tanks has begun.

Excavation has started on the new clarifiers.





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ORO LOMA
EARTH DAY 2005
POSTER CONTEST
WINNERS
See page 1

POLLUTION PREVENTION



Protect Yourself, Protect Others

Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal

Used needles, syringes, and lancets are dangerous because they can injure people and spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and syphilis. When improperly disposed of in the trash or flushed down the toilet, they can harm and infect trash collectors and wastewater operators. Since all used needles and syringes may carry disease, anyone incurring a needle stick injury must undergo expensive medical testing and treatment in addition to worrying about his/her health. If you use a needle, syringe, or lancet, you can properly dispose of it in a number of ways:

1. Mail-back Service

These are services to which you subscribe. You fill the needle container with used needles and mail it back in the package provided by the company. The cost of this service depends on the size of the container you select.

2. Home Needle Destruction Devices

Several manufacturers offer products that allow you to burn, melt, or cut off needles at home.

3. Drop off Collection Sites

Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste is presently developing a plan that will allow Alameda residents to safely dispose of medical sharps in approved containers at one of their three drop-off sites. For more information, call (800) 606-6606. Local doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies may also accept medical sharps for disposal.

To find out more about proper disposal of medical sharps, visit the EPA Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/sharps.htm> or contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at (800) 643-1643 or www.safeneedledisposal.org

Please Return Your Cart

As a courtesy to your neighbors, please remember to retrieve your trash, recycling, and green waste carts from the curb and return them to a safe, out-of-sight location after they have been emptied.



New Recycling Carts

You may soon notice gray wheeled carts in your neighborhood. These are the new recycling carts. They will be gradually replacing the present brown carts as these wear out and as new customers move in.

Oro Loma Board of Directors



The Oro Loma Sanitary District Board of Directors is made up of five District residents, each elected to a four-year term. Seats are up for election in even years, alternating between two and three seats. In 2006, there will be three seats up for election.

In addition to participating in public meetings, subcommittee meetings, and representing the District at regional conferences, Directors must read many pages of reports and background information in order to be prepared to make the hard decisions required to provide policy direction to the District.

The Oro Loma Sanitary District Board of Directors meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Why not come down and see how these conscientious civic servants are working for the good of Oro Loma residents?