

Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest Winners Honored



Oro Loma Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest Winners

PRIZE	STUDENT	SCHOOL	TEACHER
K-1	1st Allyson Francis	Calvary Lutheran School	Ms. Blank
	2nd John Thoene	Dayton Elementary School	Mrs. Garland
	3rd Ashika John	Dayton Elementary School	Ms. Hugenberger
	HM Amparo Contreras	Del Rey Elementary School	Mrs. Filson
	HM Melissa Szeto	Del Rey Elementary School	Mrs. Jolley
2-3	1st Yanet Medina	Thomas Jefferson Elementary School	Mr. Craig
	2nd Johnathan Chan	Dayton Elementary School	Ms. Herts
	3rd Jasmin Vargas	Corvallis Elementary School	Ms. Cara Levin
	HM Saul Mata	Colonial Acres Elementary School	Ms. Hannah
	HM Owen Chin	Dayton Elementary School	Mrs. Alexander
4-5	1st Manuel Carbajal Jr.	Grant Elementary School	Mr. Anderson
	2nd Kimberly Szeto	Del Rey Elementary School	Mrs. Granberg
	3rd Michelle Nguyen	Dayton Elementary School	Mrs. Vartia
	HM Kayla Turney	East Avenue Elementary School	Mrs. Carter
	HM Katherine Chong	Corvallis Elementary School	Mr. Dalton
6-8	1st Katherine Siat	St. Joachim School	Mrs. Zucca
	2nd Allison Anilao	Bohannon Middle School	Ms. Dean
	3rd Jonathan Imson	St. Joachim School	Mr. Stambaugh
	HM Kristen Aceves	St. Joachim School	Ms. Bayer
	HM Mary Hoang	St. John's School	Mrs. Wetherell
9-10	1st Abel Kifle	Lighthouse Christian Academy	Sis. Francine Curry
	2nd Justin Briones	Lighthouse Christian Academy	Sis. Francine Curry
	3rd Barry (Rongsheng) Chen	Arroyo High School	Mrs. McGonigle
	HM Alexander Go-Oco	Hayward High School	Mrs. Rome
	HM Natasha Barredo	San Leandro High School	Ms. Dove
11-12	1st James Matthew Gan	San Leandro High School	Ms. Hodges
	2nd Grace Chan	San Leandro High School	Ms. Brown
	3rd Janet Tam	Arroyo High School	Ms. Preston
	HM Anny Li	San Leandro High School	Ms. Brown
	HM Marco Coronado	San Leandro High School	Ms. Brown



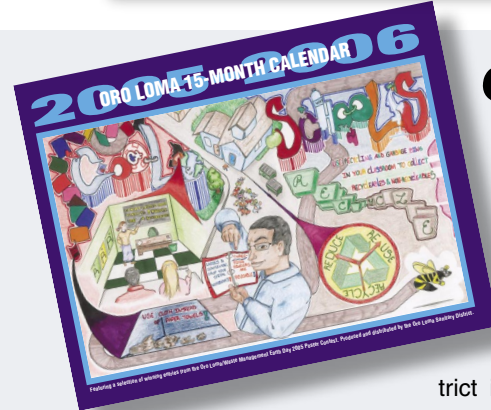
May 10, 2005 was a day of great excitement for the winners of the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest. They knew they had won a prize, but they didn't know which one. Would it be one of the two \$100 Honorable Mention prizes in their grade category, (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, or 11-12)? Maybe they would win the \$200 Third Place Prize or the Second Place Prize of \$300. Or maybe, just maybe, their name would be called last and they would take home the First Place Prize of \$500!

To find out, the thirty students, along with their families and friends, gathered at the San Leandro Marina Community Center. To get this far, their posters had to be chosen from among the 2,600 entries in the eleventh annual contest, which is sponsored by Oro Loma and Waste Management. To be selected, they had to show how "Cool Schools Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." They knew recycling was important at home; now they had to create a poster to illustrate how they, their teachers, and school administrators could practice the 3Rs of recycling at school. In addition, their posters were judged on originality and artistic content. That judging was expertly handled by Noelle Hartshorn, formerly of the Castro Valley Sanitary District, Robin Plutchok of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, and Domingo Da-quoag, a local artist and educator.

In the end, the students took home prizes of \$7,200, and their schools received matching cash awards of \$7,200. Schools with students that submitted eligible entries, but did not have a cash winner, were recognized with \$100 Participation Awards, for an additional \$1,900. That makes \$16,300 that Oro Loma awarded in 2005 to students and schools in the District.

In addition to cash prizes, the fifteen finalists in each of the six grade categories, who did not win cash awards, were given Certificates of Recognition for their outstanding entries. These certificates were given to the students at their schools.

2005 Awards Ceremony



Oro Loma 2005-2006 Calendars

Free Oro Loma 2005-2006 calendars will be delivered to schools throughout the District in October. Each month features one of the winning posters in the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest. All winning posters will be printed on the back of the calendar. Calendars will also be available for pickup at the District office. The calendars, which include tips on recycling and information on the 2006 Poster Contest, are part of Oro Loma's continuing commitment to education and to our community.



Slogan for Earth Day 2006 Poster Contest

Did you know that paper accounts for 40% of all municipal waste or that the U.S. uses over 85 million tons of paper a year? Reducing the amount of paper we use and reusing and recycling paper are

ways we can help save energy, reduce pollution, decrease the need for new landfills, and protect forests.

These are some of the facts we would like students to consider when they create their posters based on the theme "Paper – Too Good to Waste" for the Earth Day 2006 Poster Contest. The contest, which kicks off January 17, 2006, is the twelfth one co-sponsored by Oro Loma and Waste Management.

Residential Garbage Rate Increase

The District's agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County provides for garbage rate adjustments for customers, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), including a CPI adjustment of the Altamont landfill fees imposed by Alameda County. The last time a residential rate increase was enacted was in 2003. A 5% rate increase for residential garbage service has now been approved, effective September 1, 2005. New residential garbage rates are as follows:

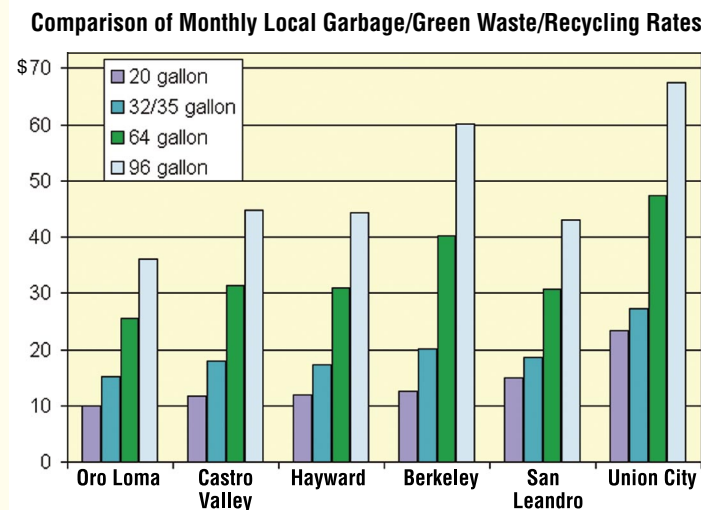
20-gallon	\$5.25	32-gallon	\$10.50
64-gallon	\$21.00	96-gallon	\$31.50

Even with the increase, Oro Loma's garbage rate remains well below most Bay Area communities.

Recycling and Green Waste Rates Remain Unchanged

The rate charged to Oro Loma customers on their property tax bills for recycling and green waste will not be affected by the increase in garbage fees. Green waste and recycling rates have not increased since 1997.

For a sample comparison of local combined rates for garbage, green waste, and recycling, see the chart below.



President's Message

Update on Oro Loma's Multi-Family Recycling Program

In the summer of 2004, Oro Loma embarked on an aggressive campaign to assist multi-family complexes within the District to increase their recycling and decrease the generation of garbage. A team comprised of Oro Loma and Waste Management employees undertook this challenge with enthusiasm and determination. The results did not take long to appear.

Now, one year into the program, Oro Loma is proud to share its accomplishment. There are 360 multi-family complexes with five or more units in Oro Loma, accounting for 10,345 units. The program target was to contact and assist 53 large complexes in increasing their recycling and reducing their garbage. The goal was reached and exceeded. The team contacted a total of 75 large and medium

apartment complexes (5,756 units). Of these, 55 complexes joined the recycling program, thus increasing their recycling and reducing their garbage. Seven complexes are making preparations to join soon. It should be noted that in Oro Loma, the District is required to provide recycling services to every customer. Recycling and green waste fees are collected every year on the customers' property tax statements mailed by Alameda County. There is no restriction on the amount of material that can be included in the customers' recycling pickup.

At the conclusion of the first program year, it was determined that an additional 530 tons of garbage were diverted from the landfill. Furthermore, by decreasing the garbage produced, apartment owners jointly saved an astonishing \$119,210 in garbage fees!

However, staff's work on this program

is far from over. Another 285 complexes need to be contacted to remind owners of the environmental and financial benefits of encouraging recycling in multi-family complexes. Therefore, in the next phase, Oro Loma and Waste Management will again send letters to multi-family complex owners, explaining the benefits of recycling, and offering assistance in implementing or enhancing each property's recycling program. None of this would have happened without the efforts and coordination of Waste Management and Oro Loma employees, who conducted field surveys, customized proposals for garbage reduction, and ultimately provided the necessary recycling bins and service. Waste Management continues to commit the necessary staff and resources to make this program a success. For further questions, or to request assistance, please call Waste Management at (510) 613-2104.

Oro Loma Awarded Again!



safety record of no injuries during the period, with the over 2 million feet of sewer line inspected and cleaned, the new and upgraded equipment, and the new digital mapping system. All of this was accomplished with a crew of one field supervisor, Lenny Rather, and seven men: Bert Gileno, Rudy Vera, Randy Wilhite, Robert Ureste, Tim Cravalho, Marty Banuelos, and Christopher Brown.

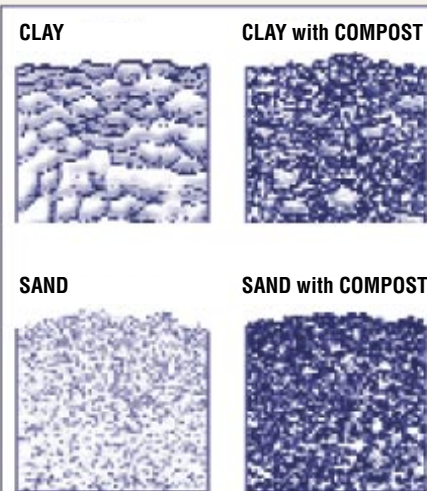
This is the second time the Oro Loma Sanitary District has won the Collection System of the Year Award, and the fifth time it has won the San Francisco Bay Section Award.

Oro Loma Residential Trash, Green Waste, and Recycling Collection Program



New Garbage and Recycling Brochure

A new brochure that describes Oro Loma's garbage and recycling program is now available. If you have not received yours, you can pick one up at the District office, or you can call (510) 276-4700 and request one.



Compost helps loosen clay soil, allowing air and water to penetrate. Compost unites fine particles in sandy soil, allowing greater water-holding capacity.

Ground-Up Gardening

Bay-Friendly Gardening begins at the ground level. Earth that is rich in organic matter will ensure soil that has:

- Good structure
- Sufficient water retention
- Proper drainage
- Nutrient supply
- Disease resistance

Adding Organic Nutrients

- **Grasscycling:** Leaving clippings on the lawn is a simple way to restore organic matter to the earth.

- **Compost:** Plant and yard trimmings can be composted in a pile or in a bin. Compost can be harvested in about 12-18 months.

- **Worm compost:** Compost worms—also called red worms or red wigglers—will turn vegetable and fruit scraps into nutrient-rich worm casings in about two to three months.

To order the Bay-Friendly Gardening guide, call (510) 444-SOIL or visit www.stopwaste.org



COMPOST YOUR FALL LEAVES!

Composting is a great way to recycle your leaves into “gardener’s gold” that your garden will love!

Bay-Friendly Gardening is offering compost bins at a discount to Alameda County residents. In addition to the bins, they also offer free workshops, videos, brochures, and answers to your compost questions.

To order a bin or for free information about composting, visit www.bayfriendly.org or call the compost information hotline: (510) 444-SOIL (7645).



Printed on recycled paper



Oro Loma Sanitary District
2600 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Major Plant Restoration
Project Celebrates
One-Year
Anniversary
See page 1

Spotlight on Excellence



Prabha Karan Scott von der Lieth Bob Ureste Chris Brown

Oro Loma prides itself on providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. One way the District is able to achieve this is by retaining efficient and well-trained personnel that consistently wins awards for their high performance (see page 3 for an article on CWEA awards).

John Redmond’s retirement this spring left vacant the position of Maintenance Supervisor. The position was publicly announced, and over 30 applicants participated in the selection process. One of them was **Prabha Karan**, who had been with Oro Loma since 1993, starting as a plant operator, and then a plant mechanic. Over the years, Prabha took classes to advance his knowledge in wastewater treatment plant operations and maintenance. He also took college courses in Business Supervisory Management, in preparation for a Certificate in that subject. Prabha was selected from the field of applicants as the most qualified and knowledgeable candidate. His new duties put him in charge of seeing that all plant and sewer collection machinery is kept at a high level of maintenance and efficiency.

Prabha’s promotion left open his old position of Mechanic II, which was aptly filled by **Scott von der Lieth**, who has been with Oro Loma since 2003.

Bob Ureste took over for Scott as a Mechanic I. Bob has been with Oro Loma since 1990, when he started as a sewer collection worker. His new position puts him back in his first love as a mechanic.

Finally, **Chris Brown**, who was hired as a temporary worker in 2003, now has the job he’s always wanted—being outdoors cleaning sewers and using the District’s large hydro truck as a Collection System Worker.

Plant Restoration *continued from page 1*

wastewater a day. Having two channels will also allow one or the other to be taken offline for servicing.

- The digester heating building that houses a new boiler, as well as three new heat exchangers, is complete.
- The most ambitious part of the plant restoration project—construction of three new secondary clarifiers—is also on schedule. Each clarifier contains 12,000 cubic yards of concrete. All the necessary piles have been driven; excavation for the round concrete structures is complete; and 90% of the structures themselves have been poured.

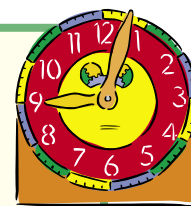
What’s Next?

Although much of the work on the plant’s project is finished, more needs to be done before Oro Loma’s customers will have a restored wastewater treatment plant that will meet modern exacting environmental standards well into the future. This includes:

- Installation of the new pump mechanisms and 30-inch discharge piping.
- Internal modifications to the new disinfection channel and major reconstruction and connection to the existing disinfection channel.
- Completion of the secondary clarifiers.
- An entirely new computerized “brain” center that will precisely control the secondary wastewater treatment process.
- Extensive testing of all new components and systems.

Missed Pickup?

Did the garbage or recycling truck pass you by without making a collection? Missed pickups should be reported to Waste Management at (510) 613-8710. If called in before noon and the driver is still on the road, pickup will likely occur that day. If the call arrives after noon or after the driver has completed his route, pickup will occur the next day.



San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.roloma.org

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Inside

- Earth Day 2005 Winners Honored
- 2005-2006 Calendars Delivered
- Earth Day 2006 Poster Contest Slogan
- Residential Garbage Rate Increase
- President’s Message
- Oro Loma Awarded Again
- New Brochure Available
- Ground-Up Gardening
- Medical Sharps Update
- Residential FOG
- Spotlight on Excellence
- Missed Pickup?

Oro Loma Sanitary District
2600 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580
(510) 276-4700
www.roloma.org

Questions:
info@roloma.org

ORO LOMA NEWS

PLANT CAPACITY RESTORATION PROJECT TIMELINE

JULY 19, 2004

1,000 DAYS

APRIL 15, 2007



Restoration Project One-Year Anniversary

On July 15, 2004, Oro Loma and Castro Valley, which owns 25% of the District’s wastewater treatment plant, broke ground on an historic \$34 million dollar plant restoration project. The estimated date for completion of this massive undertaking was set at April 15, 2007. Oro Loma is pleased to announce the project is well on its way to beating that deadline.

Accomplishments

Over the past year, a great deal has been accomplished:

- The Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT) facility, which helps hasten the process by which solids settle in the primary clarifiers, is finished.
- Two new bar-screens that sift out large

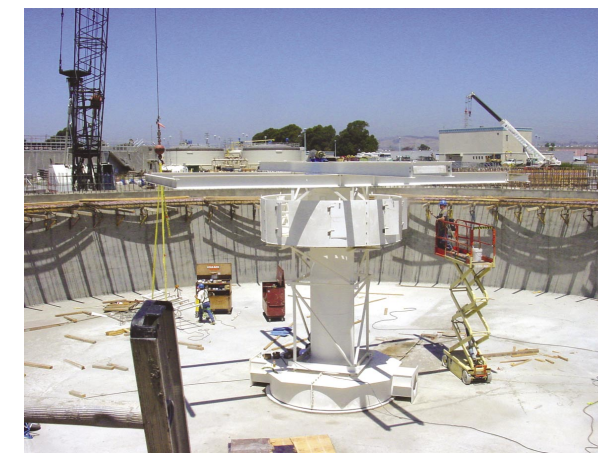


Work continues on the structure to house the new computer control center.

objects before they reach the plant have been completed and installed. Both are now online, replacing the plant’s former single channel bar-screen.

- The structure that will house the plant’s new main sewage pump, capable of lifting 35 million gallons of wastewater a day, is finished. Work has begun on installing the pump motor and drive mechanism.

- Construction on a new concrete disinfection channel is now complete. Once in service, the new channel will combine with the existing channel to provide twice the present flow capacity. This is especially important in wet weather, when the plant may be required to handle up to 106 million gallons of



Cranes lift components of the new secondary clarifiers into place.

Continued on the back page

Medical Sharps Update



As of July 1, 2005, Alameda County residents can dispose of their own “sharps” waste safely and conveniently at any of Alameda County’s Household Hazardous Waste facilities, FREE!

Only home-generated sharps from Alameda County residents will be accepted. **Sharps must be packaged in approved sharps containers.** Proof of Alameda County residency is required.

Approved sharps containers are available from medical providers, local health plan pharmacies, most chain pharmacies and drugstores, and at Costco. Follow instructions for filling and sealing, and then bring the container to a Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Keep the container

separate from any other waste, and let the greeter know you have sharps with you when you arrive.

Visit <http://household-hazwaste.org>, call 510-670-6460, or email HHWSHARPS@acgov.org for further information and a schedule.

Blackout Period for Bulky Pickup

Bulky waste pickup will be suspended from January 2-13, 2006 to accommodate holiday tree collection. Oro Loma residents are entitled to two bulky pickups in a calendar year. To schedule your pickup, call (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Residential FOG

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) poured down the drain can end up costing you money for sewer cleaning. Fats and greases tend to accumulate in drain pipes and sewer laterals by adhering to the pipe itself and/or getting caught among small tree roots that may be in your lateral. Pour grease down the drain on a frequent basis and your sewer lateral is likely to become restricted or plugged.

Some people think that they can safely pour grease down the drain by washing it down with hot tap water. In practice, the hot water solubilizes the grease only for a short distance before it cools and begins to cling to drain pipes and sewer laterals. The best practice is to pour excess fats and oils into a metal can and throw it in the garbage after it hardens. If you do have grease in the sink, it is best to wash it down with cold tap water.

