



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

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www.oro-loma.org

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## Celebrating 95 Years of Service

EARLY YEARS 1911-1917

REAWAKENING 1940-1941

### August 7, 1911

Until 1910, San Lorenzo was largely rural farms, fruit-drying fields, and cherry orchards. The land was very flat, close to sea level, with foothills to the east. In 1910, the area began to see the subdivision of large farms and estates for individual home sites. With such development, and with large areas subject to winter flooding, community leaders envisioned the need for a public storm water and sewer system. Consequently, 29 civic-minded men, who worked together for a common cause that would benefit the entire community for the next 95 years and thereafter, petitioned to create a new sanitary district.

On August 7, 1911, their petition was approved by the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors, and Oro Loma Sanitary District was formed. It embraced an area of about 800 acres, and as initially formed, was located north of Hayward in an area bounded roughly by San Lorenzo Creek and Mattox Road on the north, Meekland Boulevard on the west, Grove Way on the south, and Foothill Boulevard on the east.

*Top: The 1911 election was held in a tent set up in a fruit-drying field.*

*Bottom: Laying sewer pipes circa 1945*

### April 19, 1940

By the beginning of 1940, development of the area created an urgent need for proper sewage treatment and disposal. Accordingly, in April 1940, the District was reorganized under the Sanitary District Act of 1923. At a special reorganization meeting of the citizens on April 19, 1940, a five-member Board of Directors was elected.

Work commenced immediately on the preparation of preliminary plans, specifications, and cost estimates for an adequate sewer system, and an application was submitted to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) for financial assistance.

The District's first resolution, Resolution No. 1, set the regular meeting date of the Sanitary Board—the fourth Wednesday of each calendar month, at 8 p.m., at the Hayward Union High School.

### March 26, 1941

On March 26, 1941, by Resolution No. 26, Oro Loma approved the first of many joint agreements between Oro Loma, Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSD), and the City of Hayward in regard to the sewer outfalls, as well as future sewer works. CVSD became a long-term partner with Oro Loma.



# Celebrating 95 Years of Service

DEVELOPMENT 1941–1960 GROWTH 1960–1980 NEW ERA 1980–2000 NEW MILLENNIUM 2000 & BEYOND

## August 1, 1944

Oro Loma contracted with Oakland Scavenger Company to provide collection and disposal services to the District's customers.



## July 2, 1948

By 1947, the California State Board of Health required all jurisdictions dumping raw sewage into fresh waters to provide treatment sufficiently adequate to avoid pollution. Accordingly, the District acquired land at the west end of Grant Avenue. Construction of a sewage treatment and disposal plant was approved by the electorate during 1947–48. A \$1,840,000 General Obligation Bond (Issue #5) was issued on July 2, 1948, to finance the District's first sewage treatment plant.

Construction of the new plant began in 1948 and was completed in 1950. It had a **primary treatment** capacity of 12 million gallons per day (mgd).



Top: Oakland Scavenger Company's DiMartini truck circa 1945

Bottom: Oro Loma treatment plant in 1950

## February 9, 1968

By 1967, federal wastewater discharge requirements became more stringent, and the State Water Resources Control Board set new treatment standards, including secondary treatment. To meet these standards, the District had to design and construct a more technologically sophisticated sewage treatment plant.

The total cost of plant modifications was \$8 million. This cost was financed jointly by Oro Loma and CVSD, with the assistance of a federal grant authorized under the Federal Clean Waters Act, and a \$3 million General Obligation Bond (Issue 8, Series A) issued in February 1968.

This modern sewage treatment plant, designed by Kennedy Engineers, used the activated sludge method of secondary treatment. The construction began in 1967 and was completed in 1969.



The new treatment plant under construction in 1967

## July 15, 2004

By 1999, Oro Loma and CVSD determined that the plant was unable to meet current treatment standards at its maximum hydraulic flow of 20 mgd.

The cost of the required upgrades was estimated at \$34 million. Ground breaking for the Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration project took place on July 15, 2004. The completion date was set at April 15, 2007.





# PAPER



*Too good to waste!*

## Oro Loma Earth Day 2006 Poster Contest Winners Honored

On Earth Day, April 22, thirty students found out they were winners in the twelfth annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest. But they didn't know what prizes they had won. On Tuesday, May 9, at a festive awards ceremony attended by family, friends, and school officials, those prizes were announced.

Cash prizes for first (\$500), second (\$300), and third (\$200) places, plus two honorable mentions (\$100), were awarded in each of six K-12 grade groups.

Over 2,400 students from 30 schools in the District submitted posters. Students were asked to create posters based on the slogan, "Paper—Too Good to Waste." Posters were judged on how well students showed why it is important to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper. Entries were also judged on creativity and originality.

In addition to cash prizes, 15 students in each grade group were awarded Certificates of Merit for their excellent work in showing why it is important to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper.

The winning students' schools were awarded matching cash prizes, and all schools that submitted eligible posters, but had no cash winners, were awarded \$100 participation awards. The District awarded students \$7,100 and schools \$8,700 for a total of \$15,800. Top prize winning schools were: Dayton Elementary School \$1,400; Arroyo High School \$1,300; Bohannon Middle School \$800; and San Leandro High School \$800.

All winning posters will be printed in the upcoming Oro Loma 2006-2007 calendar, and a selection of posters will be featured on each month.



### Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2006 Poster Contest Winners

Prize		Student	Teacher	School
K-1	1st	Amanda Hoffman	Mrs. Norma Blank	Calvary Lutheran School
K-1	2nd	Kauser Adenwala	Ms. Brown	Thomas Jefferson Elementary
K-1	3rd	Ashley Woon	Mrs. Lorrie Hugenburger	Dayton Elementary School
K-1	HM	Johnathan Ho	Mr. Sanok	Bay Elementary
K-1	HM	Samantha Akre	Mrs. Norma Blank	Calvary Lutheran School
2-3	1st	John Thoene	Ms. Lesley Kamian	Dayton Elementary School
2-3	2nd	Amparo Contreras	Mrs. Leonardo	Del Rey Elementary School
2-3	3rd	Teresa Ha	Ms. Lisa Craig	Dayton Elementary School
2-3	HM	Crystal Yu	Mrs. Sylvia Eng	Chinese Christian School
2-3	HM	Melissa Chavez	Mr. Craig	Thomas Jefferson Elementary
4-5	1st	Fiona Nguyen	Ms. Jennifer DeClerq	Dayton Elementary School
4-5	2nd	Anthony Lee	Mrs. Sylvia Eng	Chinese Christian School
4-5	3rd	Pamela Szeto	Mr. Ballinger	Del Rey Elementary School
4-5	HM	Jacob Ellis	Mrs. Liston	Calvary Lutheran School
4-5	HM	Kristin Yoshioka	Mr. Butler	Bay Elementary
6-8	1st	Sarah Javed	Ms. Mimi Dean	Bohannon Middle School
6-8	2nd	Vanessa Jimenez	Ms. Mimi Dean	Bohannon Middle School
6-8	3rd	Lam Quynh Nguyen	Mr. Sloan	Washington Manor Middle School
6-8	HM	Megan Kehoe	Mrs. Deborah Sweeney	Assumption School
6-8	HM	disqualified		
9-10	1st	Christopher Stair	Ms. McGonigal	Arroyo High School
9-10	2nd	Mable Huang	Ms. Bruneau	Arroyo High School
9-10	3rd	Anh Bui	Ms. Lamay	Arroyo High School
9-10	HM	Michelle Lagasca	Ms. Diane Dove	San Leandro High School
9-10	HM	Rachel Marchetti	Ms. Cindy Hodges	San Leandro High School
11-12	1st	Jasson Diaz	Ms. Cindy Hodges	San Leandro High School
11-12	2nd	Ryan Sean Bondoc	Ms. McGonigal	Arroyo High School
11-12	3rd	Paige Suth	Mr. Ron Lapum	Redwood Christian High School
11-12	HM	Justin Briones	Sister Curry	Lighthouse Christian Academy
11-12	HM	Nathan Gong	Ms. Cindy Hodges	San Leandro High School

## POLLUTION PREVENTION

### Recycle Your Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters

Oil in your car, motorcycle, or boat picks up hazardous contaminants such as arsenic and benzene that are dangerous to the environment. Dumped into a storm drain, onto the ground, or put out with the garbage, the oil ends up in the Bay, in streams, rivers, or in groundwater, where one gallon of used motor oil could conceivably contaminate 1,000,000 gallons of water. Recycling is the environmentally safe and legal way to dispose of used motor oil and oil filters.

Recycling also helps preserve valuable, nonrenewable natural resources. One gallon of used motor oil can be refined into 2.5 quarts of new lubricant that is equivalent in quality to virgin motor oil. Each filter, when drained, contains about a pound of steel and between two and eight ounces of oil. An undrained oil filter can contain a full quart of used oil. Recycling used oil filters means that every last drop of the filter's steel, paper, oil, and plastic can have a new useful life.

Oro Loma residents will soon be able to recycle their used motor oil filters curbside, along with up to two gallons of used motor oil, on their regular garbage collection days (see accompanying article).



### Oro Loma Announces New Used Motor Oil Filter Recycling Program

District residents have been able to recycle their used motor oil curbside since 1998. Now, Oro Loma adds another element to this important program—used motor oil filter pickup. When the program starts in September 2006, residents will be able to recycle their used oil filters along with their used motor oil on garbage pick-up day. Look for more information on this program in your garbage bill and in the next newsletter.



### Bay-Friendly Gardening

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Source Reduction & Recycling Board has developed the Bay-Friendly Gardening Program to encourage residents to make environmentally-friendly gardening choices. At right is a table showing gardening tasks for the upcoming summer months.

"Bay-Friendly Gardening," a 70+ page how-to guide that provides gardening tips, a design survey, profiles of East Bay gardens, and much more, may be ordered at [www.stopwaste.org](http://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.

#### Flower and Vegetable Gardens

- Mulch beds to conserve water and control weeds.
- Identify bugs before you spray, squash, or stomp—they may be "good bugs."
- Let some plants go to seed for seed saving.

#### Tree, Shrub, and Perennial Beds

- Mulch with wood chips or leaves to conserve water, reduce weeds, and feed the soil.

#### Watering

- Turn on watering systems.
- Water lawns one inch per week. Or let go dormant and water root zone once a month.
- Water at dawn or in the evening to reduce evaporation.

#### Composting

- Add yard debris to compost pile. Place pile in shade or cover to hold moisture.

#### Wildlife Habitat

- Change bird bath water daily.
- Remove any molded or spoiled seed or fruit from feeders.
- Put out only as much food as the birds will eat in a day.



### Earth Day 2007 Poster Contest Slogan

The first official Earth Day was observed on April 22, 1970. What was the purpose of Earth Day? How did it start? Why is it important? What ways can we celebrate and protect the Earth and our environment?

These are some of the questions we hope students will explore in the Earth Day 2007 Poster Contest—"Earth Day 1970-2007."

The contest kicks off January 16, 2007 and ends March 16, 2007.



## Oro Loma Wins CSRMA Award

On May 16, 2006, Oro Loma was presented with the 2005 CSRMA Loss Control Program of the Year Award. The presentation took place during a Board of Directors meeting.

David Patzer, of the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority, presented the award, which was given in recognition of the District's safe work practices and outstanding safety record. To win the award, Oro Loma completed a comprehensive application and provided information and samples of its safety training procedures, which included no loss for injury for over three years.

The CSRMA is a pool of 58 sanitation districts throughout California, who have joined to provide self-insurance for its member agencies. The organization employs contract management and a full-time loss-control specialist who conducts on-site safety evaluations and regional safety training seminars. By taking a proactive approach to ensuring the well-being of its employees

and by combining economic resources, CSRMA-member agencies significantly reduce their insurance expenditures, while providing a workplace that is safe and operating in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.



## President's Message

August 7, 1911 marked the beginning of a new era. On that date, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved a petition to form the Oro Loma Sanitary District. This makes Oro Loma one of the oldest sewer districts in Alameda County and in the State of California.

The next 95 years saw many changes. Gone are the orchards and fruit drying fields that once stretched for miles. In their place has grown a thriving community of homes, businesses, and schools. The District has weathered two World Wars and a Great Depression. We have seen a man walk on the moon and the dawn of the Digital Age.

One thing has not changed in all those years—the commitment of those original 29 civically-minded founders to provide the best possible sewer and solid waste collection services at the lowest possible cost.

Oro Loma is entering an exciting new phase in its history. The massive sewer treatment plant project that will restore the District's ability to process 20-million gallons of wastewater a day to the most stringent local, state, and federal regulations is now nearly complete. I am happy to report the project will be completed ahead of schedule, under budget, and financed without debt.

This fall, the District will launch a new used motor oil filter collection program. This is the latest addition to a comprehensive curbside recycling program that started on October 31, 1994—a program that has not seen a fee increase since it began.

We have just honored the winners of the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2006 Poster Contest and are preparing for the 2007 contest.

These are indeed exciting times for the District. We look forward to the future with the knowledge that the original commitment made in 1911 will never change.

## PLANT CAPACITY RESTORATION PROJECT TIMELINE

JULY 19, 2004

1,000 DAYS

APRIL 15, 2007



## Plant Capacity Restoration Project in Final Testing Stage

More than nine months before the projected completion date of April 15, 2007, the massive plant restoration project undertaken by Oro Loma and Castro Valley is more than 95% complete. All that remains is final testing, some concrete work, paving, and landscaping.

All major facilities and equipment installation is complete. Three new clarifiers are in place and functional. All pipelines have been installed and all electrical work is complete. Five new 60 horsepower pumps that return activated sludge to the aeration tanks are up and running. An additional giant influent pump, capable of

pumping 35-million gallons of wastewater on its own, is housed and operational.

Testing on the new plant configuration began in April, when clear water was introduced to the system. On June 6, 2006, wastewater started to be processed through the upgraded treatment plant.

When the remaining 5% of work is complete, the Oro Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant on Grant Avenue will be capable of processing 20-million gallons of wastewater a day and meeting the most stringent local, state, and federal regulations for

treated discharge. The date for that final completion is anticipated for late September—a full six months ahead of schedule.



*Newly completed clarifier*



**Oro Loma Sanitary District**  
2600 Grant Avenue  
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**ORO LOMA  
ANNOUNCES  
USED  
MOTOR OIL FILTER  
PROGRAM  
See page 4**

## Spotlight on Excellence: Paul Zolfarelli



On March 20, 2006, Paul Zolfarelli assumed the duty of Director of Water Quality Services for Oro Loma. He took over for Ed Heuer, who retired after 17 years with the District.

In his new position, Paul is the Chief Plant Operator, and as such, is responsible for overseeing all the plant's operations and maintenance activities.

Before joining Oro Loma, Paul was Brentwood's Director of Public Works for five years, and before that he was the Manager of Water and Wastewater for Livermore for two years. He was also with the City of San Leandro for 15 years.

In addition to many years of experience with public agencies, Paul brings a strong business background with him to Oro Loma. In fact, Paul's degree is in business administration, and a major interest of his is organization management.

He was drawn to Oro Loma because of the District's dedicated staff, a Board of Directors that is both supportive and interested, and a General Manager who is dedicated to doing what is right.

He is joining the District at an exciting time, when the massive plant restoration project is nearing completion. Paul says he looks forward to the years ahead, as he utilizes his business expertise to find new ways to promote the District's mission to "Provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost." He is dedicated to maintaining a well-run plant, to learning from others, and to setting an example for those who are members of his staff.

Paul grew up in Washington Manor and has lived in Pleasanton for 15 years with his wife of 18 years and their three children.

## Sewer Lateral Responsibility

Under Ordinance No. 35-12, Oro Loma is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sewer main, which usually runs down the middle of the street. Property owners in the District are responsible for the lateral, the pipe that runs from the building to the main. Often, this pipe extends beyond the property line and into the street. Property owners are responsible for the entire length of the pipe, up to and including the lateral's connection to the sewer main.

The District is not responsible for the building lateral, but it does have inspection jurisdiction in all new installations, repairs, or replacements of the building sewers or laterals. Property owners must obtain a sewer permit from the District prior to start of any work. The permit fee is \$25.00 and the inspection charge is \$200.00 per structure or connection. The permit fees and charges are waived for customers retrofitting their lateral with a backwater prevention system.

If the lateral or its connections are broken or collapsed, the line must be repaired or replaced. For information on obtaining a permit or on maintaining a building lateral, call (510) 276-4700, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

