



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.oro-loma.org

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Oro Loma's Sewer System Management Plan

One of the District's most important responsibilities is to ensure that its collection system (the underground sewer pipes) operates reliably, and that there are few, if any, overflows. With nearly 300 miles of pipeline and 45,000 customer connections, this is a big job.

Through programs designed to maintain reliable service, and through the efforts and effectiveness of our collection system maintenance crews, Oro Loma has been very successful in reducing stoppages and overflows. Please see the chart below.

	Stoppages	Overflows
1991	100	50
2005	5	1

Today we are working with 25% fewer personnel than in 1991, yet the number of annual linear feet of pipe cleaned and televised with a digital camera is up 53%. During the same period, customer calls were down 41%.

All of Oro Loma's sewer maintenance plans are summarized in an 11-page District report called the Sewer System Management Plan, or SSMP. While the District's programs to reduce the frequency of overflows has been going on for years, state regulators recently mandated that each local agency document such efforts in an SSMP approved by the governing board.

The public is invited to participate in the process and provide feedback on the SSMP. The District's SSMP can be reviewed on the District's Web site (www.oro-loma.org) or at the District offices at 2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo. A public hearing to approve the District's SSMP will be held on December 5, 2006 at 3:00 PM..



Oro Loma's award-winning collections crew.

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

JANUARY 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	*2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Because of the January 1 holiday, service will occur one day later this week.

*Bulky pickup is suspended during holiday tree pickup.

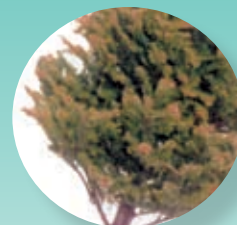
- January 2-12, 2007;
- Green trees only;
- Trees that are 6 ft. or under or are cut into lengths of 6 ft. or less;
- NO snow flocking, tinsel, or ornaments;
- NO tree stands or nails;
- Place tree next to your green cart on your regular collection day.

Note: Flocked trees cannot be recycled. However, they will be picked up curbside at no additional cost January 2-12, 2007, on your regular collection day.

Flocked trees will not be picked up curbside after January 12, 2007. To discard flocked trees after this date, cut them up and place them in your garbage cart.

After January 12, 2007, green trees will not be collected curbside. To recycle green trees after this date, cut them up and place them in your green cart.

For further information, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.





Oro Loma/ Waste Management 2007 Poster Contest

April 22, 2007 marks the 37th anniversary of the first official Earth Day. Much has changed since that day in 1970.

How and why did Earth Day begin? What are some ways we can celebrate the day? Have there been any changes in the way we view our environmental responsibilities since 1970? These are some of the things we want students to consider in the 13th annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day Poster Contest—**Earth Day 1970-2007**.

The Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2007 Poster Contest kicks off on January 16, 2007. It will be open to all students in grades K-12 attending a school in the District that uses Waste Management for its recycling program. Students have until March 16, 2007 to let us see what they have to say on the subject.

A list of cash winners in each grade category will be announced on the contest hotline at (510) 613-2855 and on www.roloma.org on Earth Day, April 22, 2007. The specific placement of winners within each grade category will be unveiled at an awards ceremony on May 22, 2007.

Prizes are as follows: First Place \$500, Second Place \$300, Third Place \$200, Honorable Mention (two awarded) \$100. Prizes will be awarded to the winning students in each of six grade groups: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12. Matching cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students' schools. A Certificate of Merit will be given to the 15 finalists in each grade category who do not win a cash prize.

Free poster paper with an entry form printed on the back may be picked up at the student's school, at Waste Management's Oakland office (172 98th Avenue), and at the Oro Loma Sanitary District office (2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo). An entry form will be available for download from www.roloma.org and one is printed in the Oro Loma 2006-2007 calendar.



Used Motor Oil Filters

Oro Loma's used motor oil filter pickup program is now ready to kick off. Starting next month, District residents can call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 for their free used motor oil filter recycling kit that includes special zip-locked bags and program instructions.

President's Message

Occasionally, Oro Loma customers have asked about the possibility of implementing a food scraps recycling program in the District. While we admire our customers' support for the environment, we have decided not to provide this service at this time, for a variety of reasons.

First and foremost, co-mingling food waste with green waste contaminates the green waste. Green waste without food contamination can be recycled into usable products, such as pelletized fuel, mulch, and other landscaping materials. Once contaminated, green waste can only be composted. At present, there is not a strong market demand for more compost. Moreover, food scraps put down the garbage disposal are converted into fuel at the District's wastewater treatment plant.

We are unaware of any reliable studies which show that food waste recycling measurably reduces the amount of garbage that goes into landfill. Claims of successful food waste programs are typically unscientific estimates or proforma projections. Another local jurisdiction has also reached similar conclusions, and has decided not to offer food scraps recycling at this time.

The District's current diversion rate is 62%, which is one of the highest in the state, and our garbage and sewer rates are among the lowest in Alameda County. Our primary goal is to provide "the best possible service at the lowest possible cost." We also take seriously our responsibility to protect the environment. Maintaining a balance between these objectives requires innovation, hard work, and common sense. By not mixing food waste with green waste, our customers pay less for our service, and we have more options as to how we recycle our green waste.

In summary, the District has not closed the door to the possibility of offering food scraps recycling in the future, but, based on all of the above, the District is not offering food waste recycling at this time.

One alternative to food scrap recycling is home composting. For more information, visit www.stopwaste.org.

Oro Loma 2006-2007 Calendars Delivered

Free 15-month 2006-2007 calendars have been delivered to schools throughout the District. These calendars feature the winning posters in the Oro Loma/Waste Management 2006 Poster Contest. The calendars may also be picked up at the District office on Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo.

Larger Recycling Carts Are Available

Do you find all your recycling not fitting into your old recycling cart? No need to call for an additional pickup. Just call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 and ask for a larger cart at no cost. Thanks for your recycling efforts and keep up the good work!



Two Free Bulky Pickups per Year

Residential customers in Oro Loma can take advantage of two FREE bulky pickups per calendar year. Be sure to call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance to schedule your pickup. There are no pickups January 1-12, 2007.

Before throwing out useful items, donate them, or hold a garage sale. Magazines, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, and many types of plastic and metal containers can be recycled. For a list of what can be recycled, visit www.oroloma.org.

INCLUDE

Large Residential Appliances

- Up to 3.



Tires

- Up to 4.
- Passenger vehicle tires only.
- No rims.



Household Furniture and Mattresses

- Up to 3 large items, including mattresses of any size.



Yard Trimmings and Wood

- Branches or wood must not exceed 4 ft. long or 6 in. in diameter.
- Branches and tree limbs must be bundled.
- Clean, untreated, unpainted wood only.



Trash and Small Appliances

- Trash must be in bags or other disposable containers.
- Containers will not be returned.
- Up to 2 cubic yards, which is approximately 16 large trash bags or a stack 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 6 ft.



DO NOT INCLUDE



Items Over 75 lbs.

- Other than furniture, mattresses, and appliances



Hazardous Waste

- No paint, solvents, gasoline, antifreeze, oil, car batteries, pesticides, or materials containing asbestos.
- For hazardous waste disposal information, contact the Alameda County Hazardous Waste Program (800) 606-6606 or visit www.household-hazwaste.org



Rocks, Dirt, Concrete, or Construction Debris

PLANT CAPACITY RESTORATION PROJECT TIMELINE

JULY 19, 2004

SEPTEMBER 2006 RESTORED PLANT 100% OPERATIONAL

APRIL 15, 2007



Restored Plant Is 100% Operational!

The newly restored District wastewater treatment plant has passed all operational tests and is now 100% functional. The plant is now capable of processing 20-million gallons of wastewater a day (MGD), meeting the most stringent local, state, and federal environmental standards for treated discharge. The plant typically has a dry weather flow of 14 MGD, but during wet weather the plant will be able to fully process up to 106 MGD. This massive undertaking, the largest in Oro Loma's history, was accomplished a full six months ahead of schedule and well under budget.

Among those on Oro Loma's staff who

were instrumental in overseeing the project are Mike Cortez, District Engineer; Ray Busch, Operations Supervisor; Prabha Karan, Maintenance Supervisor; Seyed Moeel, Senior Project Engineer; Angelino Santos, Electrical Instrumentation Technician; Ed Heuer, recently retired Director of Water Quality Services; Anna Wilewski-Turon, Finance Manager; and, of course, General Manager, Michael Cameron.

An open house to cele-

brate the newly restored plant will be held in spring 2007. Watch the next issue of this newsletter for more information.



New clarifiers



Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue
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**Oro Loma's
Sewer System
Management
Program
See Page 1**

POLLUTION PREVENTION



California Universal Waste

Many common household items contain hazardous chemicals or heavy metals that can cause serious environmental damage when discarded in the trash. These items are known as "Universal Waste." As of February 8, 2006, it has been illegal in California to dispose of universal waste in the garbage.

Universal Waste includes: common batteries; fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury-containing lamps; thermostats; electronic devices such as televisions and computer monitors, computers, printers, vcrs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens; electrical switches and relays; pilot light sensors; mercury gauges; mercury added novelties; mercury thermometers; non-empty aerosol cans that contain hazardous materials.



Oro Loma residents can properly dispose of most Universal Waste, including batteries, florescent bulbs, and other items containing mercury, by bringing them to one of Alameda County's three hazardous waste disposal sites:

Oakland: 2100 East 7th St.: Thursday–Saturday 9 AM-1 PM;
Wednesday by appointment (800) 606-6606

Hayward: 2091 West Winton Ave.: Thursday–Saturday 9 AM-1 PM;
Wednesday by appointment (800) 606-6606

Livermore: 5584 La Ribera St.: Thursday–Saturday 9 AM-1 PM;
Wednesday by appointment (800) 606-6606

Electronic devices, computers, TVs, and cell phones are not accepted at the Alameda County Hazardous Waste Disposal sites. TVs, computers, computer monitors, printers, and up to three large appliances will continue to be collected as part of the Oro Loma bulky waste pickup program (see page 3). Aerosol cans that are completely empty can be recycled.

For questions, call (800) 606-6606 or email hwh@acgov.org.

Keeping Ahead of High Energy Costs

While Californians struggle with the high cost of energy and the need to reduce dependence on foreign oil, Oro Loma finds itself in the enviable position of producing much of its own energy.



An important step in treating wastewater is the process of turning sludge into useful, clean biosolids. During that process, methane gas is produced. Oro Loma uses this gas to power two large engines, each of which turns two 360-Kilowatt generators that supply up to 95 percent of the electricity that the Oro Loma wastewater treatment facility needs to operate equipment and provide power to the offices. This is enough electricity to supply the energy needs of about 700 average households.

Oro Loma uses three primary digesters to hold and process 700,000 gallons of sludge. Sludge is broken down in a biological process that requires the material in the digesters to be kept at 98.6 degrees for 20 days. This temperature is maintained by using heated water from the engines' cooling systems and by a new boiler capable of producing five million BTU per hour.

By producing its own electricity, Oro Loma is saving approximately \$40,000 a month. If electricity costs continue to rise, Oro Loma will save even more money each month.

Oro Loma continues to look at additional ways to reduce its dependence on PG&E power by investigating ways to increase production of methane gas and by looking at other sources of power generation, including solar energy.

There will be no trash or recycling collection on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Day. If your pickup day falls on these holidays or the day after, your collection will occur the next day.