



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.oroloma.org

Spring 2007

Issue 42

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Newly Restored Plant Open House

An open house in honor of the District's newly restored wastewater treatment plant at 2600 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo, is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2007 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. The public is invited to join District officials and staff in celebrating this important event. A ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments, and plant tours are part of the planned festivities. Tours are restricted to ages 9 and older, and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The restoration project, which started on July 19, 2004 with a budget of \$34-million, was the largest undertaking in the District's history. Completion was scheduled for April 15, 2007. The plant became fully operational over six months ahead of schedule and the project was completed under budget.

The list below highlights some of the plant's new additions. All of these were completed while the existing plant was fully operational and there was never any interruption in customer service.

- A new primary influent channel with a new bar screen;
- A matching new bar screen in the existing primary influent channel;
- A new 35-MGD (Million Gallons per Day)

diesel pump unit, which allows the plant to run at full capacity with the largest pump out of service;

- A new 20-ft deep subterranean structure to house the new pump unit;
- Three new 4.5 MGD secondary clarifiers, each 120 feet in diameter and 18 feet deep, which triple Oro Loma's secondary treatment capacity;
- Approximately 500 feet of additional disinfection channel, which allows one channel to be shut down for cleaning while the other is in use;
- A new CEPT (Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment) facility that uses ferric chloride and polymers to enhance and accelerate settling in the primary clarifiers, thus lightening the load on the secondary treatment unit;
- A large subterranean pumping station with five redundant return activated sludge pumps;
- Two new grit separators, which replaced the single existing unit;
- A widened mixed liquor channel with a deepened aeration section.



Oro Loma 2007 Earth Day Poster Contest Winners Will Be Announced April 22



The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. How and why did Earth Day begin? What positive environmental changes have occurred since 1970? What are some ways to celebrate Earth Day?

These are some of the questions students worked hard to answer as they designed their entries in the 13th annual poster contest sponsored by Oro Loma and Waste Management.

Winners of the contest will be announced on Earth Day, April 22. The specific placement of cash prize winners within each grade category will be revealed at an awards ceremony on May 22. 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, and 11-12. Matching cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students' schools. Schools that have students who submitted eligible entries but did not win a cash prize will be awarded a \$100 Participation Award. Certificates of Merit will be presented to 15 finalists in each grade category.

Winners in each grade category will be announced on the contest hotline at (510) 613-2855 and on www.oroloma.org.

All cash-winning posters will be printed on the back of the Oro Loma 2007-2008 calendar. A selection of these posters will also be featured on each month. All posters will be returned to the schools that submitted them. For more information, call the 24-hour contest hotline at (510) 613-2855 or visit www.oroloma.org.

Focus on Excellence: Oro Loma Board of Directors

The five-member Oro Loma Board of Directors works tirelessly to see that District customers receive excellent service, while insuring that the District is run in the most professional and fiscally-responsible manner possible. Among the Board's recent achievements was guiding the historic wastewater treatment plant capacity restoration project to completion six months ahead of schedule and under budget.

The Board is elected at large to four-year terms by voters within the District. Work meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the District's Administration Building. Committee meetings for Construction, Finance and Insurance, Operations, Personnel/Safety/Public Information, and Solid Waste are held throughout the month. Committee schedules and Board meeting minutes are available on the Oro Loma website at <http://www.oroloma.org/management/agenda/calendar.html>.

The public is invited to attend Board and Committee meetings.

Keep Styrofoam Out of Your Recycling Cart!

Expanded polystyrene foam (EPS), commonly known as "Styrofoam," is everywhere. We find it in molded and "peanuts" packing material, in take-out containers, and disposable coffee cups. And since EPS is plastic, we should recycle it with other plastics, right? **Wrong!** Styrofoam cannot be recycled with other plastics, and once in your recycling cart, everything in that cart is considered trash and must be sent to the landfill.

Here are some ways to reuse EPS packaging material:

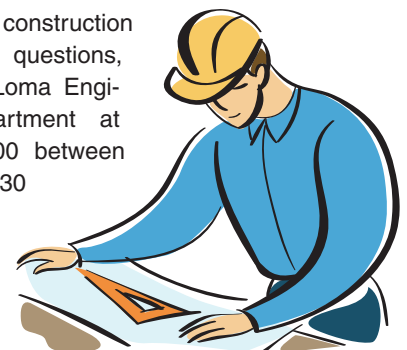
- Use peanut pieces for light-weight drainage in planters;
- Save molded EPS for future packaging needs. Electronic devices are best shipped or moved in their original EPS packaging and box;
- Pass EPS packaging peanuts on to an individual, company, or organization that can use them.

Find a local business that will reuse your packing peanuts by calling the Peanut Hotline at (800) 828-2214. Always call ahead to confirm peanuts are being accepted at that time. Gather together a large amount of EPS from neighbors to make the trip to a drop-off location worthwhile.

For a list of items, including plastics that **are** accepted for recycling in Oro Loma, visit www.oroloma.org.

ALERT! New Sewer Project Scheduled

Within the next 60 days, construction is scheduled to begin on a nine-month, \$5-million sewer line replacement project between the I-880 Washington Avenue off-ramp and Fargo Avenue. There will be no disruption in sewer service. Area residents and businesses will receive further information about the project before construction begins. For questions, call the Oro Loma Engineering Department at (510) 276-4700 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.



P

resident's Message

Board Votes NOT to Increase Sewer Rates

In May 2003, the District's Board of Directors made the difficult decision to gradually increase residential sewer rates by \$20 per year (for single family dwellings), five years in a row, beginning July 1, 2003. The increase was the first since 1991, and it was based on sound financial planning necessitated by increased operating costs and the predicted expense of completing the state-mandated Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project. The fifth and final \$20 per year increase approved by Board Ordinance in 2003 was to go into effect July 1, 2007.

The Board is proud to announce that during its regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 20, it voted unanimously to RESCIND the residential rate increase scheduled for 2007! Additionally, the Board voted to rescind the rate increase scheduled for 2007 for Commercial/Industrial customers.

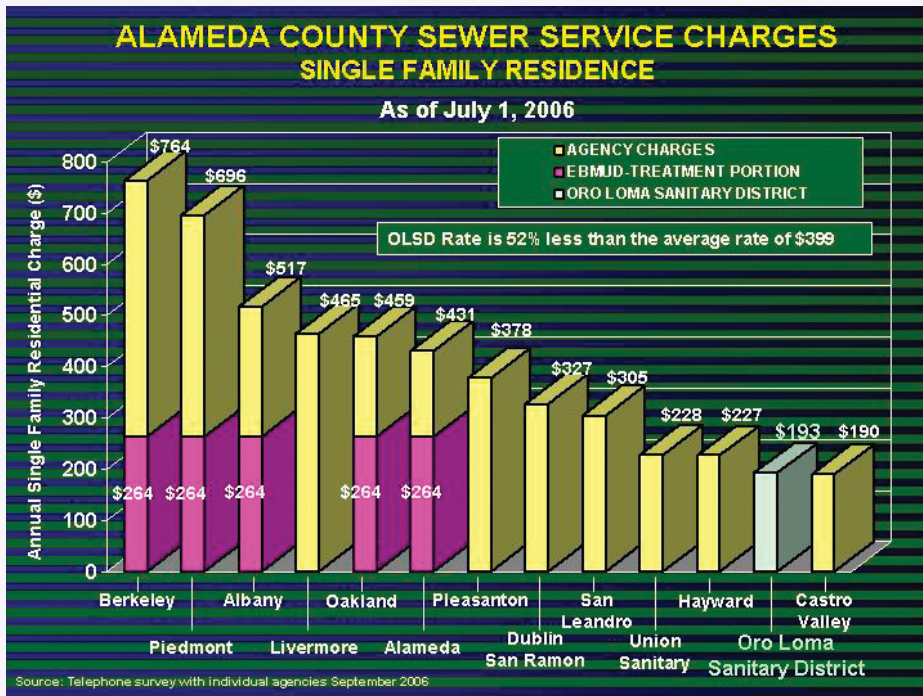
The Board based its decision not to increase sewer service rates mainly on two factors:

1. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Restoration Project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.
2. Existing capital reserves are adequate to fund all proposed capital improvements for the immediate future.

The District stands by its commitment to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

A legally-required Public Hearing to formally set the District's sewer service rates will be held at the Board of Director's meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 3:00 pm, at the Oro Loma Sanitary District office, 2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA.

For more information, call (510) 276-4700, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm.



2007 Residential Single Family Dwelling Sewer Service Rates

Annual	\$193.00
Monthly	\$ 16.08
Daily	\$ 0.529

2007 Commercial/Industrial Annual Sewer Service Rates

Multiple Family Dwellings	\$178.78
House Trailers/ Mobile Homes	\$146.58
Minimum Charge	\$146.58

Motor Oil Filter Recycling Bags

They're here! To make it easier to change and recycle used motor oil and filters, Oro Loma customers can now recycle motor oil filters along with up to two gallons of motor oil every week on their regular trash pickup day.

Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 for your complimentary oil jug and oil filter bag. Simply drain the filter, place it in the bag, seal the bag, and set it curbside next to your carts on collection day.



DO MOTOR OIL FILTERS GO IN THE GARBAGE?

NO! Filters are considered hazardous waste - recycle them curbside next to your used motor oil.



Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

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Oro Loma's
Board of Directors
Votes not to increase
Sewer Rates
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POLLUTION PREVENTION



Medical Sharps Disposal

When flushed down the toilet, used syringes end up at the wastewater treatment plant, where they can injure plant workers. Used needles, syringes, and lancets are dangerous because they can injure people and spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and syphilis. 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.

Alameda County residents can dispose of their medical sharps waste safely and conveniently at any of Alameda County's Household Hazardous Waste facilities, FREE! Proof of Alameda County residency is required and only home-generated sharps in approved containers will be accepted.

Approved sharps disposal 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.

For further information and a schedule, visit www.stopwaste.org, call 510-670-6460, or email HHWS sharps@acgov.org.

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

In addition to medical sharps, other substances and items can damage the sewer system and the environment when washed down the drain or flushed down the toilet. Among these are: Grease, Fats, and Oils • Rags and "disposable" wipes • Dental floss • Medicines • Toxic cleaners and chemicals • Motor oil • Oil-based paints.

Please keep these and other hazardous materials out of the sewer system.

Stop Junk Mail!

Oro Loma has joined other Bay Area cities and jurisdictions in a campaign to stop junk mail. The campaign ran through February and included public service announcements on radio as well as newspaper and newsletter articles.

Junk mail is a huge waste of natural resources, as well as time. It takes 100 million trees and over 28 billion gallons of water to produce the junk mail that is sent in the U.S. in just one year. One ton of paper takes 36 million BTUs to produce, and the production and disposal of junk mail alone consumes more energy than 2.8 million cars. The average American spends up to 234 minutes a year to sort through daily junk mail.

You can recycle junk mail, but it's even better to stop receiving it. Bay Area residents can get a "Stop Junk Mail Kit" by visiting www.stopjunkmail.org or by calling (877) STOPWASTE (786-7927). The Stop Junk Mail Kit, which will be available all year, provides easy steps to get off junk mailing lists and stay off. The kit includes pre-addressed postcards to junk mail clearing houses, and offers tips on how to assure that names and addresses do not get traded, rented, or sold to companies that send unsolicited mail. Completing a Stop Junk Mail Kit takes just two minutes of your time.



SIX EASY WAYS TO REDUCE JUNK MAIL

1. **Fill out and mail the postcards attached (or right, be sure to fill out sections of your name.**
For example:
John T. Doe
1234 Main St.
Anytown, CA 94580
2. **When you buy from catalogs, never give your name or address to anyone who asks you to let them sell you more products. DO NOT LET ANYONE ASK YOU TO LET THEM SELL YOU MORE PRODUCTS.**
3. **Call the following numbers to request your name be taken off their list:**
Credit Card Offices: 1-800-452-4522
Catalogs: 1-800-452-4522
Companies: 1-800-452-4522
Advertisers: 1-800-452-4522
Shareholders: 1-800-452-4522
For more information on reducing junk mail, visit www.stopjunkmail.org or call (877) STOPWASTE (786-7927).
4. **Control the catalog and tell them you want your name taken off their list.**
Call the number on the catalog or write a letter to the company asking them to remove your name from their list. If you have the most copies of your address, you can print it out and give it to the company.
5. **Write on the bottom of checks and mail orders, "DO NOT SELL MY NAME!"**
6. **Control your service providers such as insurance, bank, utility provider, etc. Tell them that you do not want your personal information shared.**
Relating unsolicited mail:
Unsolicited mail is mail that is not addressed to you and is not in your name. It is often sent to you by mistake or by someone who has your name and address. If you receive unsolicited mail, you can tell the sender that you do not want to receive it. You can also tell the sender that you do not want to receive any more mail from them. If you do not want to receive any more mail from them, you can tell them that you do not want to receive any more mail from them. If you do not want to receive any more mail from them, you can tell them that you do not want to receive any more mail from them.

How to Stop Junk Mail: A Guide for Residents of the Bay Area
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