

# CASE STUDY

## LAGUNITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA

### Telemetry Spots High Flow Events, Leaking Fixtures

Lagunitas Elementary School in beautiful Marin County, California, had a failing septic system that required weekly – and costly – “pump & haul” services. The school retained Questa Engineering to design a new onsite wastewater system, and Questa decided on a recirculating sand filter (RSF). To ensure the RSF could be regularly monitored and controlled within a limited school budget, Questa also specified a control panel with remote telemetry.



*Lagunitas Elementary School in Marin County, California is using an Orenco TCOM™ control panel with remote telemetry capabilities to monitor its onsite wastewater treatment system. The system, which also uses Orenco pumping equipment, was designed by Norman Hantzsche, of Questa Engineering.*

With remote telemetry (and a computer), operators can monitor a system's flow, switches, pumps, floats, and alarms, without ever leaving the office. Lagunitas' wastewater system was installed in February, 1999, and Questa Engineering has been monitoring it ever since. The school's wastewater flow averages 1400 to 1600 gpd (5.3 to 6.1 m<sup>3</sup>) during the week and just a few hundred gpd on the weekends.

“Working with Orenco's engineers, we developed a Summary Report that logs important system data,” says Norman Hantzsche, Questa's Managing Engineer. “Using telemetry, we make system checks regularly, but on Monday mornings we're able

to make a quick scan of the previous week's report to make sure everything is operating under normal conditions.”

One of those quick Monday scans showed an unusually high flow event over the weekend. “The system spiked to 6700 gpd (25,393 Lpd),” says Hantzsche. “We immediately notified the school staff, who

## Controls Market

### Product Overview

#### TCOM™ Remote Telemetry Control Panel



*For complete specifications and options, see this product's Technical Data Sheet, ATD-CP-TCOM-1, available from Orenco's Document Library at [orenco.com](http://orenco.com).*

*“Remote telemetry saves everyone a lot of time and money, while improving overall system reliability.”*

**~ Norman Hantzsche, PE**  
Managing Engineer, Questa Engineering

*Continued on next page*

### **LAGUNITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **Controls Market**

found a water faucet left running in one of the restrooms. We were able to look at the computer screen and make sure everything was functioning correctly. We checked liquid levels in all tanks, pump operations, and flow readings in a matter of minutes,” Hantzsche explains. “We were able to notify the school about the high flow event, while confirming that the system was, in fact, working properly. That way, the school could investigate the problem and correct it on their own. Remote telemetry saves everyone a lot of time and money, while improving overall system reliability.”

For more information on TCOM™ Remote Telemetry Control Panels, contact Orenco's Systems Engineering Department, 800-348-9843.

## **Orenco Controls**

**877-488-3594**

**541-459-6786**

**[www.orencocontrols.com](http://www.orencocontrols.com)**