An Affordable Wastewater Treatment Solution for Commercial Properties

**THE JALOUSIE PLANTATION, ST. LUCIA**

**Problem**
The wastewater system for the Jalousie Plantation (now known as “Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort”) on the island of St. Lucia was destroyed by Hurricane Tomas in October, 2010. This Caribbean hotel destination desperately needed an emergency solution — needed to have a new system designed, built, shipped, installed, and functioning before the busy Christmas tourist season.

**Solution**
After initial contact with the resort's engineer on November 18, an Orenco® AdvanTex® AX-Mobile Treatment System was custom-built for the resort and shipped to the site. Orenco employees flew to St. Lucia for the installation, and the system was up-and-running in four weeks from initial contact, just in time for Christmas holiday guests. The Orenco tank and treatment unit for this temporary, emergency solution will be relocated to become part of the resort’s permanent wastewater solution in the future.

**AX-Mobile® Quickly Replaces Damaged Wastewater System**
On October 30, 2010, Hurricane Tomas hit the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia hard. Forty-two inches of rain fell in 24 hours, causing massive rock- and mudslides. Fourteen people died, 10,000 homes were destroyed, and an estimated $500 million in damage and losses were incurred by residents and businesses.

The Jalousie Plantation (now known as “Sugar Beach: A Viceroy Resort”) is a 100-acre luxury property near Soufriere. Although this area was the hardest-hit part of the island, there were fortunately no injuries among the guests or staff, but the resort itself suffered severe damage.

An AX-Mobile Treatment System was installed at an award-winning, 60-room resort on the island of St. Lucia, in the Caribbean. It replaced an old activated sludge plant that was destroyed by Hurricane Tomas on Oct. 30, 2010. Photo courtesy of The Jalousie Plantation, Sugar Beach: www.jalousieplantation.com.
Dana Ripley, P.E., of Ripley Pacific Company, was contacted in mid-November by resort representatives. The facility was shut down, and managers were trying to get a portion of their rooms ready for the holiday. Although they had insurance on the buildings, it was hard to file claims on lots that had literally disappeared! If the resort couldn’t get a functional wastewater system by December 20th, it would lose all its Christmas bookings. The income from holiday guest visits was crucial to the resort’s operation and to recouping losses from the damaged rooms and villas.

On November 22, Ripley met with resort staff on site. He had evaluated eleven different alternatives, and only Orenco’s® AX-Mobile could meet the resort’s time constraints. The unit had to be in Miami on December 7th to make it to St. Lucia in time. “Other vendors were talking about 6-8 week minimums,” said Ripley. “Orenco said they’d be ready to ship in 4-5 days. The owner was in disbelief.”

The resort needed two AX-Mobile units to meet its emergency needs. Orenco had one unit in stock, and crews worked through the Thanksgiving holiday to build the second. Despite a two-day delay due to shipping and customs issues, the units arrived in St. Lucia on December 18th. Orenco employees Tristian Bounds, P.E. (who had assisted Ripley with system design and coordinated the manufacturing schedule) and Travis McAlister flew from Oregon to St. Lucia to be on hand for the units’ arrival and to help employees install the system. From the time of delivery, the system was online in only two days, and the resort was able to open for the holidays as planned. Says Ripley, “I’m very proud of what Tristian did, and the time frame – it was just impossible.”

This first system configuration was an emergency fix for the resort’s wastewater problems. The resort is now in the process of clearing a site 50-60 yards away for an improved, permanent wastewater treatment system. After tanks and equipment from the ruined system are removed and a large retaining wall is rebuilt, the existing AX-Mobile units will be relocated to become part of the resort’s 75,000 gpd permanent wastewater solution. The system is also modular, so the resort will be able to add more units as circumstances require.