

Directors: Mary Sylla, President ~ Pamela Meigs, Secretary ~ Peter Sullivan, Treasurer ~ Pat Guasco ~ Frank Egger

Ross Valley Sanitary District
2960 Kerner Blvd.
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 259-2949

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

DATE: November 20, 2013
TIME: 7:00 PM
TYPE: Regular Meeting
LOCATION:
Central Marin Police Authority
260 Doherty Drive
Larkspur, CA 94939

UPCOMING STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

DATE: November 18, 2013
TIME: 7:00 PM
TYPE: Regular Meeting
LOCATION:
District Office
2960 Kerner Blvd.
San Rafael, CA 94901

New Maintenance Methods Prove Successful in Reducing Sanitary Sewer Overflows

The District's Maintenance Department has implemented a new method of organizing and tracking pipeline maintenance that has proven successful in reducing the number of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

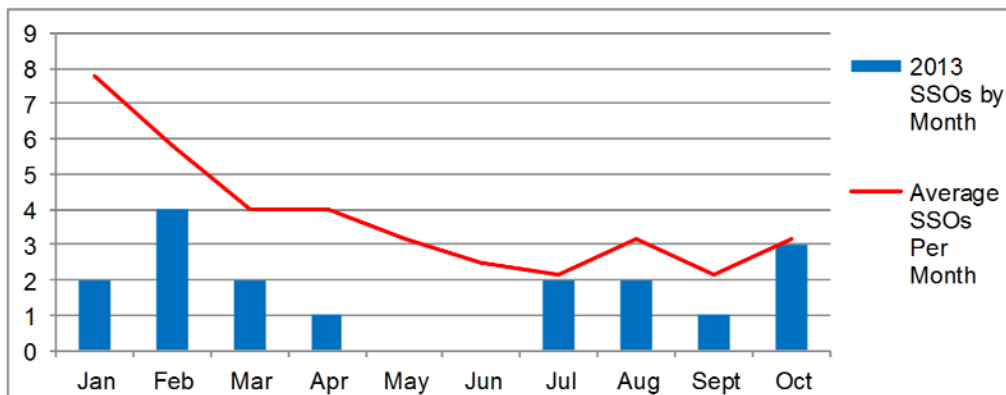
For decades the Maintenance crews moved from the North end of the Ross Valley to the South end cleaning pipes with just 3 rodder trucks. Due to a lack of documentation, and a computerized system capable of tracking cleaning records, many pipes were missed and went uncleaned. Over the past 12 months, the Maintenance

crews split the District's service area into 22 zones and began a new approach based on Zone Cleaning. High risk areas were identified and prioritized based on records of past SSOs. Two crews focus on one zone at time, cleaning every pipe and documenting their work in the District's CMMS before moving on to the next zone. In addition to this new method, the District has purchased 2 additional cleaning rigs (Jetters) that utilize high pressure water in place of mechanical rodding to clean the line. Jetters are rapidly replacing rodders as

the industry standard, due to improved debris and root removal, and higher efficiency.

Since the implementation of this new method the District has seen a notable decrease in SSOs. The graph below shows the average amount of SSOs per month over the last 5 years compared with the number of SSOs this year.

Prior to the implementation of this new method and the additional trucks, crews were able to clean approximately 70,000 ft of pipe per month. The crews are now averaging 130,000 ft per month.



Lateral Replacement Grant Program Customer Experience

The District's Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) provides partial reimbursement for homeowners with leaking and defective laterals. Replacing a lateral that backs up and overflows can put an end to ongoing costly maintenance. One homeowner in Fairfax, Anna, found out about the LRGP when purchasing her home in 2012. She recently participated in the LRGP and said, "coincidentally, I had just found out that the program reopened when we also received notice that work was going to start on the [sewer] main line [on our street]. Maintenance on our lateral was necessary, and we were very happy that we could do the work at the same time RVSD was too... In the end, saved us a lot of money by being able to tie [the lateral replacement] to the work already being done."

The District has a list of approved

contractors that LRGP applicants can choose from. This list helps connect customers with contractors able to do the lateral replacement work. Anna had a great experience with the contractor she chose. "Gopher-It [Trenchless] was great - they were really honest and treated us like human beings - not like someone to gouge or rip off."

When asked about the LRGP application process and response time receiving her approval letter and reimbursement check, Anna said, "[staff] really helped us get our application through," and the reimbursement check came "so much faster than I expected!"

The LRGP currently has \$250K available for the current fiscal year but funds are going fast. Visit our website at www.rvsvd.org or call our office at (415) 259-2949 for more information.

5 Year Financial Forecast Present to Board of Directors

RVSD presented an updated five-year financial forecast, during its October Board meeting. The forecast is the latest step in the District's return to a sound financial footing, and incorporates the updated five-year infrastructure asset management plan. The forecast was developed in support of these basic goals:

- Maintain a prudent level of preventative maintenance to both ensure reliable service and minimize the risk of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO).
- Fund necessary Capital Improvements outlined in the Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP).
- Achieve Fund Balance and Reserve targets as established by District policy.
- Minimize future increases in the District's revenue requirements (rates) and allow timely actions to balance long term cost and revenue trends.

The financial forecast reflects all major cost-of-service and revenue factors related to Operations and Maintenance, and capital infrastructure. Total O&M costs are projected to increase about 1.5% per year on average, reflecting the primary influences of increased CMSA treatment costs and increasing personnel costs due to health insurance and negotiated wage adjustments. Over 90% of the change in projected future revenue needs over the next five years is related to capital projects necessary to replace and rehabilitate the aging infrastructure. The Five Year Financial Forecast and other financial documents are available on the District website at <http://rvsvd.org/about-us/financial-information>.

Help Prevent Sewer Overflows During the High Risk Season

The rainy season is approaching and the RVSD crews are working to keep the system clear of blockages that could cause sewer overflows. You can take an active role in overflow prevention by helping us out with these few simple precautions.

1. Do not flush anything down the toilet or drain that does not dissolve as easily as toilet paper.
2. Do not pour fats, oils, or grease down the drain. It solidifies in the pipes and can create blockages that lead to overflows or backups.
3. Report all suspected overflows to the District immediately. If you believe that you see an overflowing manhole or cleanout, or if you detect the odor of sewage in any flowing water, please report it immediately by calling (415)259-2949. Even if it is after business hours, an answering service will direct the message to our emergency on-call personnel at once.

The RVSD Staff thanks you for your support.

