

ROSS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
 2960 KERNER BLVD.
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 (415) 259-2949
 WWW.RVSD.ORG

RVSD Newsletter

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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

Date: September 18, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Type: Regular Meeting
Location:
 Central Marin Police Authority
 250 Doherty Drive
 Larkspur, CA 94939

TENTATIVE

Date: September 25, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Type: Regular Meeting
 (Continued)
Location:
 Central Marin Police Authority
 250 Doherty Drive
 Larkspur, CA 94939

UPCOMING STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Finance Committee:

Date: September 16, 2013
Time: 4:00 PM
Location:
 District Office
 2960 Kerner Blvd.
 San Rafael, CA 94901

5 Miles of Private Sewer Laterals Replaced

The District has reached a major milestone for the lateral grant program, having approved reimbursements for the replacement of 5 miles of private sewer laterals throughout the District.

The program, which began in 2009, is aimed at reducing the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) of shallow ground water and storm water to the sewer system. In the dry weather months of the year the District sends approximately 5 million gallons per day (MGD) to the CMSA treatment plant. This increases to approximately 50

MGD during the rainy months due to the severe I&I problem.

The increased flow during the rainy months increases the risk of sewer overflows, which endanger public health and are very costly for clean up and regulatory fines. Additionally, the District pays CMSA for wastewater treatment services per gallon, whether the flows are I&I or wastewater. On average, RVSD pays to treat 1 gallon of I&I flow for every 2 gallons of actual wastewater.

Reducing I&I can help mitigate sewer overflows and save the

ratepayers money, while assisting homeowners in solving an unpleasant problem.

Property owners with leaking and damaged laterals may be eligible for reimbursement up to \$2,500 for replacing their private lateral. If you experience chronic problems such as backups and overflows that require ongoing professional plumbing maintenance, you probably have a lateral in need of repair.

For more information and how to apply, call our offices at (415) 259-2949, or visit our website at www.rvsd.org.

New Connection & Inspection Fee Structure Approved - First Increase in 22 years

New residential and commercial construction connecting to the sewer pay a fee to offset the cost of future system capacity improvements, which are necessary due to service growth.

The District last evaluated and updated these connection fees in 1991. A brief [survey](#) identified that the District's connection fee was less than a tenth of the average fee at other sewer agencies in the area.

Earlier this year, the Board contracted with a consulting firm, HF&H, to conduct a study evaluating the current fees. Connection fees are determined based on the value of the existing facilities, e.g. sewer mains, pump stations,



etc, and intended to provide for capacity growth as needed in the future.

The Board has accepted the HF&H study and passed Ordinance No. 64 increasing the connection fee. The Ordinance also introduces inspection fees intended to offset the cost of staff time for administration, engineering review and inspection time for District-issued permits. [Click here to view Ordinance No. 64.](#)

Board Approves \$17.8 Million Revenue Bond

The \$17.8 million revenue bond, approved at the July 17th Board Meeting, allowed the District to restructure existing debt in the amount of \$8.4 million, pay off the loan for the District headquarters office building, and provided an additional \$8.2 million for the District's FY13/14 Capital Improvement Program.

The successful issuance of this bond marks the completion of a significant step in the financial plan outlined in the FY13/14 Budget, which was approved in June. Many of the projects funded by the bond proceeds are already underway and their progress can be tracked through updates on the District's home page at www.rvsd.org.

Cost Sharing Agreement With City of Larkspur



At the May 13th Board meeting, Board members and staff discussed the merits of a possible joint project between the District and the City of Larkspur at the Doherty Drive Bridge.

The District has plans for a future Capital Improvement Project in the Doherty Drive area which will involve the installation of a new force main to serve Riviera Circle.

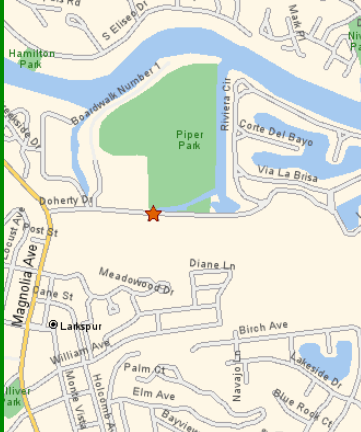
District staff worked with the City of Larkspur and its engineering consultants to de-

velop design options for a new 12-inch diameter force main conduit casing to be added to the new bridge which can accommodate a force main in the future. The City of Larkspur has recently completed the design stage for this project.

MMWD is also working with the City of Larkspur to install a new water distribution line on the same bridge. The District selected the north side of the bridge for the sewer conduit installation to allow MMWD to have their

preferred location on the south side.

The District's Board of Directors approved a cost sharing agreement in the amount of \$80,000 with the City of Larkspur for the stainless steel casing. This is a cost the District would have incurred when beginning its own Capital Improvement Project. Coordinating force main conduit installation with the bridge construction results in significant cost savings for the District.



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FY 13/14 Capital Improvement Plan Update

To comply with the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the District is developing an Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP).

The IAMP prioritizes the rehabilitation and replacement of facilities with the highest likelihood of failure, as well as the highest consequence of failure. The IAMP process included the

review of gravity pipelines, pump stations, force mains and the District's operations and maintenance processes. The IAMP will present a prioritized 5-year capital program that balances level of service objectives and minimizes future risk of sewer overflows.

The project team, which includes consultants from V.W. Housen & Associates, is using the information

gathered to develop a clear understanding of system priorities and is currently documenting these to provide a comprehensive project report.

A final version of the study will be presented at the September Board meeting and made available on the District website. A copy of the most recent presentation to the District Board can be viewed [here](#).



Planning For the Future

In the second week of September the District's contractor, Ranger Pipelines, will break ground on Group A of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 13/14. Ranger will start the first of nearly 10,000 feet of sewer rehabilitation projects

in Fairfax, and will begin work on Willow Ave, Frustuck Ave, Rocca Dr, Cascade Dr and Hillside Dr through September and October.

At the July 17th Board Meeting, the Board approved an agreement with Harris & Associates in the amount of \$683,408, for construction

management and engineering design services for Group B of the CIP, a total of 20,000 feet of sewer rehabilitation. Harris & Associates is currently evaluating rehabilitation methods for each of the project sites, which are scattered throughout the District. Visit our website at www.rvsd.org for updates on the status of the Group A projects.