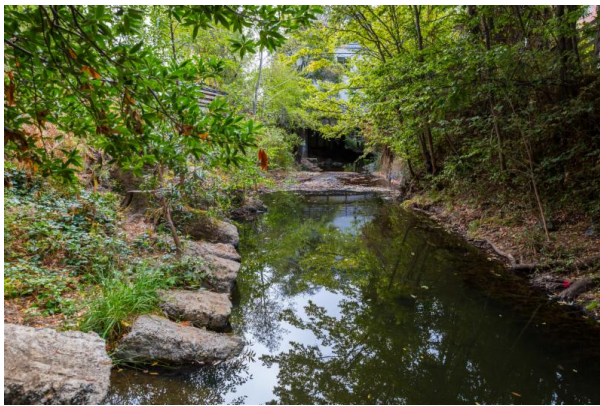


## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin - May 2021

Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) provides this monthly news bulletin to stay connected to the community we serve. We welcome your feedback on any information in the bulletin. If at any time you no longer prefer to receive this information, please email us at [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). Visit us online at [www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org) for more information.



It feels like summer as we begin ramping up for planned construction projects through our [Capital Improvement Program](#).

These important infrastructure projects help protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows. RVSD remains dedicated to ensuring our 200 miles of sewer lines and 19 pumping stations are properly maintained and operating.

Our staff will continue to observe the appropriate physical distance requirements, use sanitizer products and wear protective masks while performing our daily operation and maintenance tasks as long as recommended by local and national health authorities. We will keep you posted on any changes in protocol that may occur as restrictions are lifted.

### 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects in Your Neighborhood

The Board awarded Ranger Pipelines, Inc. the contract for the [Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements Project](#), which also includes nearby work on Lower Fawn Drive. Construction is scheduled to begin June 14. **A public GoToMeeting will be held on June 9 at 5:30 p.m. to provide more information and answer questions.** Visit <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/909319469> to join the virtual meeting.

Park Engineering, Inc. has been awarded the contract to provide construction management (oversight) services for the [FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project](#). Work includes repairing and replacing priority sewers in Kent Woodlands, San Anselmo (Sequoia Park), Ross (Skyland), along South Eliseo Drive in Larkspur, and other sites. Bids will be opened on June 3 and the construction contract awarded at the June board meeting. Construction is anticipated to begin in July.

For the [Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24 & 25 Improvements](#) a notice inviting bids has been issued and bids will be opened on July 8. The contract for this project will be awarded at the July board meeting. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.

### Water coming out of your Sewer Lateral Cleanout? Call RVSD at 415-259-2949!

In April we had a sanitary sewer overflow that came out of the cleanout for a private sewer lateral. The

homeowner found it quickly – but called a private plumbing company instead of RVSD. It took six hours for the company to respond. Because of the delay, overflowing raw sewage flowed across the homeowner’s yard with about 100 gallons flowing into a nearby creek. RVSD staff took creek samples for three weeks until County Health officials declared the creek was again safe for public contact. This incident highlighted the need for RVSD staff to up-size the pipe in this sewer segment. This project will be included in next year’s capital improvement program, but it also highlighted a need to remind our ratepayers ***the best call to make if you see an overflowing sewer, private or public, is to your local wastewater agency who are always equipped and prepared for rapid emergency response.*** This call can make a difference!

### Easement Access Video

Do you know what to do if you have a public sewer main or manhole on your property? Visit our [Sewer Utility Easements](#) web page or look under the “Customer Service” tab at the top of the RVSD website at [www.rvsd.org](http://www.rvsd.org). Once on the easements page, you will find our new informational video in addition to the easements brochure, FAQ’s and more.



Over 500 customers have provided us with their contact information since the program began in February. Your assistance will help us all communicate better when staff need to access private property to maintain these essential utilities for the protection of public health and the aquatic environment. Visit the Easements web page, email [Info@rvsd.org](mailto:Info@rvsd.org) or contact us at 415-259-2949 with any questions or for more information.

### Drought and Collection Systems

How does drought affect wastewater agencies? This is a common question, and while the impacts vary across agencies and geographies, a few consistent themes emerge in all wastewater systems. One theme is the need for line maintenance crews to maintain or increase sewer cleaning. When people do a great job conserving water in their sinks, showers, laundry, dishwashers and toilets, the collection system receives less water. Properly functioning collection systems benefit from the reliable morning flush when people are showering and getting ready for their days. This morning flush helps keep blockages from forming in smaller diameter sewers.



When the peak of the morning flush goes down during drought, there is a higher probability of blockages that could cause overflows to creeks or backups into buildings. Therefore our staff have to maintain or increase cleaning of the system, using hydrojetter trucks to perform this essential task. In addition, the presence of plant roots in the system increases during drought as these roots are attracted to the wastewater in the pipes when ground water tables drop in elevation. The high pressure hydrojets cut and flush these root blockages as well. These activities do not use a high volume of water; we use around 800,000 gallons of water per year (equal to about 16 homes' annual water supply) to keep blockages from forming. RVSD initiated using recycled water from the [CMSA](#) treatment plant in 2019 to keep dust to a minimum during Larkspur Landing cleanup activities (as shown in the photo above) and to clean sewers. Today recycled water is used for about 40% of our cleaning, saving our precious water resource for other vital uses during this drought.

More than  
**\$5.1 million** in  
grants have been awarded  
to homeowners who replaced  
their laterals since 2009.

 **\$145,000**  
in grant funding is  
available for FY 20/21!



### Want to Update your Private Sewer Lateral?

RVSD has designed grant and loan programs to help property owners in our district with the cost of fixing their leaky and damaged private sewer pipes (laterals).

These pipes connect homes and businesses to the public sewer mains and are responsible for an estimated 50 percent of all sewer spills! If you are experiencing chronic problems such as backups and overflows that require ongoing professional plumbing maintenance, you probably have a lateral pipe that needs repair.

Other signs of leakage and damage to your pipe may be less evident. Slow running pipes, odors and ground movement around

lateral pipes may indicate a problem as well.

Visit our [Laterals / Permits web page](#) for more information about the Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance, loan and grant fund applications, how to apply and more!

### **Updated Sewer Permit Application Form**

As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline systems and simplify processes for our customers, the District has updated the [Sewer Permit Application Form](#) to be used for ALL sewer permits, including those being obtained for remodels, additions and/or new construction. A Private Sewer Lateral Inspection Report Form is included with the application form. The process is more consistent with other sanitary districts and requires more information in the application form, including a sketch of the proposed work and the pre-construction video. These changes are expected to improve communications and efficiency of the process. Completion of this form is required in order to obtain a Sewer Permit.

### **Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)**

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Visit [Digital Marin](#) for more information about EBB eligibility requirements and more!



### **Larkspur Landing**

Public outreach will continue throughout the process to consider the appropriate unrestricted land use for this site. We are still waiting for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review and comment on the draft Larkspur Landing site cleanup completion report that RVSD submitted in January. The site will be officially available for further consideration once the final report has been accepted.

The three informational presentations held to date are posted on the [Larkspur Landing webpage](#). We encourage our ratepayers to track and participate in this discussion as the Board weighs alternatives, and we will keep you informed about additional opportunities to provide input.

### **Safety Continues as a Top Priority**

Our fully trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state and federal safety and quality protocols for managing the RVSD sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. Every day, their work ensures our interconnected wastewater collection system, pumping equipment and essential District services continue to run smoothly.

**Access to our public lobby and other facilities remains closed to the public and all non-essential visitors until further notice.** We continue to issue permits (payments by check only), schedule essential inspection appointments and process grant and loan applications electronically at [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org), Monday through Friday. Call 415-259-2949 for assistance.

**If you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow or leaking pipe, or you smell or see sewage on the ground, please contact us immediately for 24-hour response at 415-259-2949, as you will get a faster response from us than any private company, possibly preventing a discharge to a creek, which happened in San Anselmo last month.**

Thank you!

*Steve Moore, General Manager*

### **Important Reminders:**

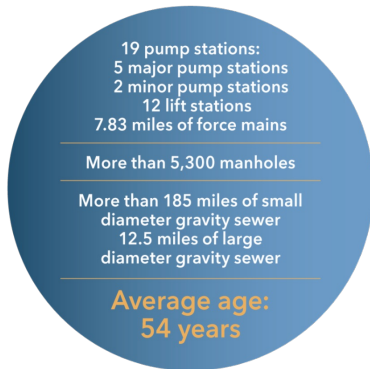
[Click here](#) to review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about sewer overflows and what to do.

**If you see or experience a public sewer emergency, call the RVSD Emergency Line 24/7 at 415-259-2949.** Common reasons to call include a manhole overflow, leaking pipe, odors or visible sewage on the ground. Our emergency crews are available 365 days per year, 24 hours per day, seven days per week!

**Before you hire a plumbing contractor,** [click here](#) to check the California Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board (CSLB) for more information. Make sure any plumber you hire is familiar with district policies and programs for any private property sewer emergency.

All of this information can be viewed online [here](#) or by clicking the "EMERGENCY" icon on our website [homepage](#).

## RVSD Infrastructure Facts



**Upcoming 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects will continue during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order.** These infrastructure upgrades help maintain the region's interconnected sewer system as we continue to provide cost-effective wastewater collection service that protects public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows.

You can view [upcoming projects being planned and going out to bid](#) as well as recently completed projects throughout our service area.

Watch our [Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#) web page for the latest information and updates on these upcoming projects. Individual web pages for each of these projects will be launched soon.

- **Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements** – The contract for work was awarded Ranger Pipelines, Inc. Construction is scheduled to begin June 14 and be complete in August.
- **FY 20/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements**– Park Engineering, Inc. has been selected to provide construction management services. Construction is anticipated to begin in July.
- **Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24 & 25 Improvements**– Project is out to bid. Bids will be opened on July 8. Construction anticipated to begin in August.
- **Ross Creek Sewer Removal Project**– Permit applications and fees have been submitted. This project qualified for the Small Habitat Restoration program from the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and received a Programmatic Biologic Opinion from the federal NOAA Fisheries. These are streamlined approvals because of the environmental benefits of the project to out-migrating steelhead trout. The project, located by the Shady Lane Bridge at Locust Ave., is on track to meet the goal to construct in early fall, during dry weather.

Want to receive timely construction updates? [Click here](#) to select the project you want updates for or call us at 415-259-2949.

**Due to current COVID-19 conditions, members of the public are invited to attend RVSD Regular Board Meetings safely and remotely from a computer, tablet or smartphone.**

Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM.

**The RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 5:00 PM via GoToMeeting.**



[Click here](#) for updated meeting access information 24 hours before the meeting. [Check the agenda posting here](#) 72 hours before each meeting for open session time.

**Want an alert when the next Board meeting agenda is available?** Please write to our [Clerk of the Board](#) to request to be included in upcoming agenda alerts.



**BOARD MEETINGS**  
Current Board Packet

Click here to visit  
[RVSD.org](https://RVSD.org)

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