

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin December 2021

Ross Valley Sanitary District (the District) 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 wish to receive this newsletter, please select "Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this message. Visit us online at www.RVSD.org for more information.



As 2021 comes to a close, we send our best wishes to everyone for a safe and healthy year ahead. We are also thankful for the welcomed and much needed rain that has been falling with the arrival of winter.

RVSD staff remain dedicated to ensuring the essential daily operation and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations.

Remember, if you see a public sewer emergency such as a manhole overflow, leaking pipe, or sewage on the ground, **please call the RVSD Emergency Line 24/7 at**

415-259-2949 as soon as possible. When leaving an emergency call, be prepared to provide your name, phone number, and address where the incident is occurring. After-hours calls will route to our on-call staff for immediate assistance.

Sewer Roots

Did you know that root growth accelerates toward the water and nutrients in sewer pipes during droughts? Over time, that same root growth can infiltrate older clay pipes that contain cracks and offsets, leading to blockages restricting wastewater flow in the sewer line. These blockages are known as rootwads and can easily lead to sewer spills if not removed.



Pipes containing rootwads require extra maintenance. For example, the "Before" photo (above) shows a rootwad found in a sanitary sewer pipe on Los Cerros Drive in Greenbrae. During a heavy rainfall event this month, this rootwad restricted flow in the system, leading to an overflow event upstream of the blockage. District staff cut the rootwad out to alleviate the spill. Still, some roots remain, as shown in the "After" photo

(above).

As more frequent drought conditions persist in Marin County, District operations staff work proactively to mitigate sewer spills caused by rootwad blockages. To do this, our condition assessment team regularly conducts video surveys inside the sanitary sewer pipes to document their condition. Any roots found during these video surveys are flagged in a computerized maintenance system. Our maintenance crews then use this information to determine pipe cleaning schedules, prioritizing the older pipes that have higher rates of root intrusion more frequently. This practice is an essential operating procedure and a preventative approach to reducing sewer spills caused by rootwads in the District.

2021 Capital Improvement Progress Report

Ross Creek Sewer Removal Project

We are delighted to report a salmonid was recently sighted in Ross Creek where the 24-inch diameter sewer was removed from the creekbed below the Shady Lane Bridge. This exciting event comes just two months after the sewer removal work was complete!



Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

Project construction is complete. Paving work has been postponed until early 2022 – when weather conditions are more favorable. Notice of scheduled paving dates to complete the project will be provided in advance. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.



FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

Work on South Eliseo Drive, Corte Real, and El Portal is complete. Work in Sequoia Park (photo left) is in San Anselmo and is anticipated to be complete in January 2022. The last remaining work area is a short section on Skyland Way in Ross. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.

Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24, & 25 Improvements Project

Construction is anticipated to begin mid-January. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.

More information about the District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) can be found on our [CIP project](#) webpage.

RVSD Headquarters Consolidation Project

Individual sealed bids will be received by the Ross Valley Sanitary District at any time prior to 2:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022** for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and services for the construction of improvements as part of the RVSD Headquarters Consolidation Project. **A Mandatory Pre-Bid Site Walk will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.** Please go to our [Bidding](#) page for more information about submitting bids and the mandatory site walk.

Remember - Keep Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) out of your drains this Holiday Season!

RVSD would like to remind everyone to keep cooking oils and grease out of drains. When FOG gets into the sewer line, it sticks to pipe walls, creating large blockages when it cools. FOG blockages in the sewer line can easily increase the likelihood of a sanitary sewer overflow. A preventative solution is to throw leftover FOG into a trash or compost bin instead of the drain.



This simple measure will help reduce the risk of a sanitary sewer overflow occurring during this Holiday Season. Watch our [Fats, Oils and Grease video](#) (above) to learn more!

GFOA Award for Financial Excellence

On December 15, 2021, the Board of Directors accepted the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to Ross Valley Sanitary District for the



Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate our financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The District has been successful in earning this award annually since Fiscal Year 2009-10. View the [District's Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020](#).

RVSD is on Nextdoor!

Subscribe to our Nextdoor page [here](#) as one of the ways you can find out if there will be construction in your neighborhood.



RVSD is on LinkedIn!

Follow our LinkedIn page [here](#) to stay up to date on current job announcements and other news about the District.



Important Reminders:

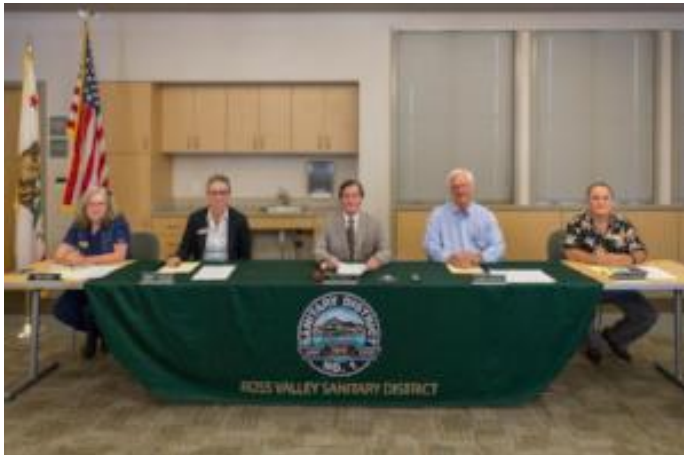
[Review our Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) that explain sewer overflows and what to do if you see one.

Before hiring a plumbing contractor, 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.

Happy New Year!

Steve Moore, General Manager

Members of the public are invited to attend RVSD Regular Board Meetings safely and remotely from a computer, tablet or smartphone.

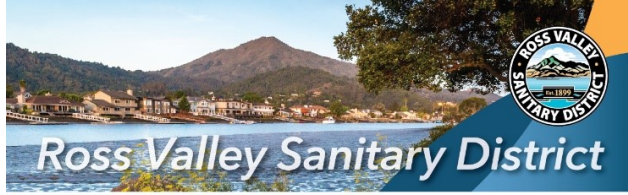


Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. These Board Meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice.

The next RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5 p.m. 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 being included in upcoming agenda alerts.



Ross Valley Sanitary District

You can receive
\$1,500-\$2,500

in Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP)
funds toward the cost of **replacing**
your sewer lateral.

CLICK HERE to learn more, or visit www.RVSD.org/LRGP

Click here to visit
RVSD.org