

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin August 2022

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.



We hope you have had a great summer, and as it comes to a close, our Engineering, Operations & Maintenance, and Administrative staff continue to provide top-notch service to the RVSD collection system. This month's bulletin provides a snapshot of the breadth of projects that our staff are working to accomplish. Collectively, these projects manage and rehabilitate the wastewater infrastructure on which we all depend, enhancing the greater Ross Valley's local wastewater system reliability and efficiency, and protecting public health and the environment.

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 making an emergency call, be prepared to provide your name, phone number, and address where the incident occurs. After-hours calls will route to our on-call staff for immediate assistance.

Construction Begins at Future Headquarters Building

This month, Kirby Construction Inc. began remodeling the RVSD's future office building at 1111 Andersen Dr in San Rafael. Construction will take approximately six months to complete and District staff plan to move into the building early next year. This future location will provide the District with the space and resources to have all staff work from the same building. Additionally, the first floor is designed to provide the District with a new assembly room that will be utilized for in-person board meetings or other public meetings, with the capability of remote attendance.



One Month, 19 Point-Repairs

The District's repair crew worked to install 19 point-repairs last month. This work was targeted to repair the most flawed "Grade 5" defects also known as "visible voids". These are basically holes in the pipe that our CCTV cameras record showing visible soils or roots within the



For example, the photo to the left shows a pipe with a large hole at the top. Visible voids are especially problematic because our line maintenance crew's essential pipe cleaning activities use high pressure water jets which can dislodge debris in the pipe and inadvertently clog sewers downstream. The repairs were conducted at the following locations: Fairfax-6, Kentfield-1, Larkspur-3, Ross-4, San Anselmo-2, Kent Woodlands-3.

A Strange Noise and a Scrubber Fan

Staff received a noise complaint regarding Pump Station 15 (Kentfield). The wet well scrubber fan was making a strange noise. Upon further investigation, it turned out to be caused by severe caking of ambient air grease collecting within the fan housing. Staff meticulously disassembled it, cleaned off the accumulated grease, and reassembled it, reducing the noise levels. Staff will increase the inspection frequency and reach out to the manufacturer to see about placing pre-filters at the inlets to prevent further fouling incidents and resultant noise.

Bye-Bye Magnolia Ave Blind "Tee"

Staff worked with a contractor to install a new manhole on Magnolia Ave in Larkspur. The manhole was installed over a blind "tee" to improve access for maintenance, in coordination with the City's paving project there. A blind tee is a location where two pipes converge without an access point like a manhole or rodhole. The pipe angles at blind tees make it harder to clear debris with standard cleaning equipment. These convergent points can easily become plugged with debris without access and cause blockages, which can lead to upstream overflows or backups in the sewer system. The Engineering team continues to prioritize the removal of blind tees from the RVSD system.



Smoke Testing at Redwood High School

Staff smoke-tested the Redwood High School adult learning complex near Diane Lane in Larkspur, where RVSD on-call staff have responded to surcharging of the sewer system and installed bypass systems during storms. Non-toxic smoke testing is commonly used by sanitary districts to identify cross connections of storm drainage or other leakage points into the sewer system through the controlled introduction of smoke into the pipes.

The smoke testing determined that the school collection system is functioning as it should with no evidence of cross connections with storm water. Redwood High School has an on-site pump station that ties into the RVSD collection system and contributes to surcharges to the Diane Lane system during wet weather. Redwood High School is within Sanitary District No. 2 (SD2) boundary and staff are working with the school district to re-route the pump station discharges back to SD2's collection system.

2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects Update

FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements: Work on Woodland Road between Laurel Way and Evergreen Drive has begun and will continue into early September. This last part of the project will ensure adequate hydraulic capacity of the Kent Woodlands trunk sewer at this location and reduce I&I (infiltration and inflow) of shallow groundwater and/or storm water. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information as it

becomes available.

Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24, & 25 Improvements: Construction continues at PS 14, the District's major pump station serving the southern half of Larkspur, located adjacent to Hall Middle School. A new photoionization odor control unit is now operational, improving local air quality and reducing nuisance odors.

The roofing renovation is complete. A new stainless steel platform and stairs are installed in the wet well, and the new backup generator has been delivered to the site. The contractor is working on improvements to the wet well and preparing to install the new backup generator which provides standby power in case of power outages. Once construction is complete at PS 14, work will commence to upgrade standby power at PS 24 & 25 on South Eliseo Drive. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.

FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements: This project is currently [out to bid](#), with bids due on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Watch for the project webpage coming soon!

Woodland Capacity and Creek Crossings Project: This month the Board approved the design contract for this project, which was split off from the FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project and expanded along the trunk line and branch sewers that cross Tamalpais Creek in multiple locations. Capacity improvements here will address deficiencies exposed during the record-setting October 24, 2021 storm, when the District experienced a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) to the creek. The photo to the right shows the District's Senior Engineer, Phil Benedetti, examining a creek crossing sewer line on Woodland Road, slated for replacement to lower risk of impacts to the sensitive waterway.



Lift Station 20, 31, 32 Pump Stations Improvements: This project to address aging equipment at minor lift stations, prioritized by our 2021 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP), is still in design.

More information about the District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is on our [CIP project](#) webpage. You can also visit our [Recently Completed Projects](#) webpage to view the completed projects to date.

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

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

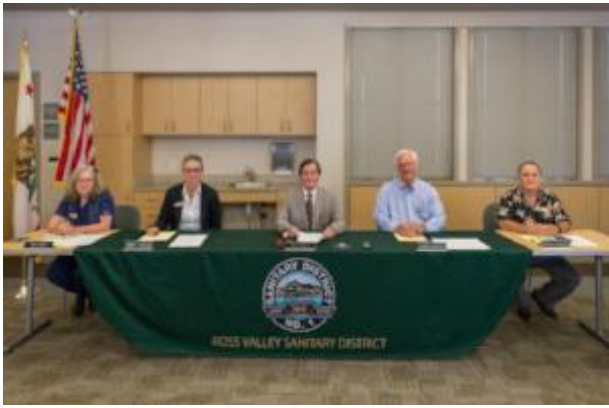
Important Reminders:

[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.

Sincerely,

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, September 21, 2022 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

[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

Do you have a public utility **easement** on your property?

RVSD has **legal access** to sewers and manholes for maintenance, repair and replacement in both routine and emergency situations.

CLICK HERE to search our **interactive parcel map**, or visit www.RVSD.org/289 to learn more.

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