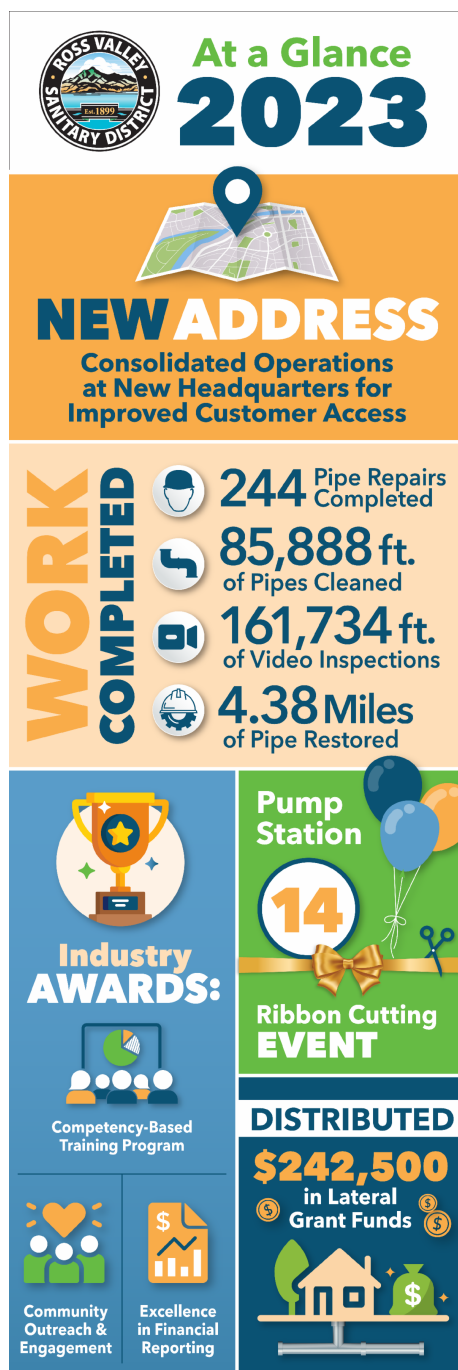


125 Years of Service

# Ross Valley Sanitary District

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

January 2024



Happy New Year! From Fairfax to Larkspur, through Sleepy Hollow and San Anselmo, Ross, Kentfield and Greenbrae, we are committed to serving all of the customers throughout [our service area](#). Our dedication to ensuring a resilient and efficient wastewater system stands stronger than ever in 2024.

With the dawn of this fresh year, we're eager to share updates, insights and endeavors from our team dedicated to safeguarding the environment and public health. Our "2023 At a Glance" infographic details key milestones from the prior year.

In 2024, we are looking forward to celebrating RVSD's 125 years of service, since 1899. Read on to explore the initiatives we've taken this first month to uphold the reliability of our vital wastewater sanitary services in Ross Valley.

We have moved into our new headquarters located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael, achieving a key goal to consolidate operational teams and services. As always, RVSD public lobby office hours are 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our dedicated staff is here to assist you via phone, email or in person.

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.***

# Accomplishments

## Large Root Discovered and Dislodged

During a recent routine cleaning of an easement line in San Anselmo, field staff discovered a large tree root growing through the walls of the access point. RVSD staff successfully removed the growth, restoring access to the pipe. Following this discovery, the access point will now be maintained annually instead of every three years to prevent the accumulation of new growth. This adjustment to the cleaning schedule will help to ensure that an unobstructed flow of wastewater within the interconnected sewer line system is maintained.



*This tree root was growing through a manhole.*

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## Pump Station 15 Rehabilitated

District staff successfully installed a new pump at Pump Station 15 in Kentfield following its rehabilitation. The pump had been removed in December due to failing bearings and a mechanical seal. Pump Station 15 handles sixty-three percent of the District's flow, making it crucial for the effective operation of our system. With the rainy season upon us, maintaining this critical infrastructure in perfect working condition is a top priority to help protect public health and the environment.



*Pump Installation.*

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## Continued Commitment to Using Recycled Water

Staff installed Sodium Bisulfate de-chlorination diffusers on both of the District's Ramjet Jetters. These Jetters are utilized for cleaning sewage lines throughout the District by flushing them with high-pressure water. The purpose of the Sodium Bisulfate diffusers is to reduce the levels of chlorine in the recycled water we use from [CMSA](#). This measure was implemented because chlorine was causing corrosion in the pump parts of the Jetters, thereby impacting the reliability of the high-pressure pumping assemblies in the flushing trucks.

Like agencies throughout the state, RVSD is dedicated to using the most efficient amount of recycled water possible. This newly installed de-chlorination method allows us to continue gaining the benefits of water reuse without damaging the equipment we use every day.



*De-chlorination diffuser installed on the Ramjet Jetter.*

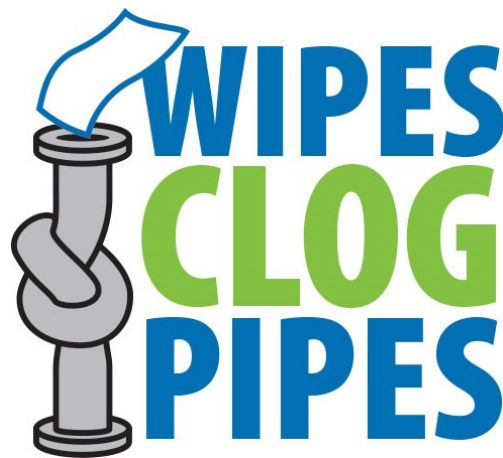
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## Be Wipe Aware

"Flushable" wipes have gained popularity through advertising campaigns, but despite the name, these wipes do not disintegrate in the sewer system and should never be flushed. The wipes are typically made with synthetic materials that won't break down and end up causing clogs in your sewage pipes. Even though you may see them flush down your toilet, they soon get entangled with fats, oils and grease in the system, leading to blockages that can cause major damage.

This month, a blockage of wipes in the RVSD system resulted in a spill that affected a seasonal waterway. Such spills are easily prevented by flushing nothing other than toilet paper in the toilet.

More information and educational videos about disposing of wipes can be found on our website [here](#).



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## Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

All piping for this project has been successfully installed. Construction crews are finishing up work on manholes and punch list items. Project completion is expected by the end of February.

RVSD's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified sewer pipe creek crossings in the Kent Woodlands area as the highest priority for investment based on a District-wide risk assessment. Replacing these sewers significantly reduces the risk of contamination to Tamalpais Creek and potential damage to the sewer main. It is essential to rehabilitate sewers that cross creeks as they have a higher likelihood of failure due to natural forces associated with storm waters, and a higher consequence of failure through more direct spills and contamination.

Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



*Contractor "pipe-bursting" on Woodland Road.*

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## Fiscal Year 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

Bids for this project were opened on January 4, 2024 and showed the low bidder as Glosage Engineering. The construction agreement will go to the Board for consideration and award during the Special Board Meeting on February 14, 2024. Construction is expected to begin in March 2024.

The project scope is to rehabilitate about 15,384 linear feet (LF) of sewer main, ranging from 4 to 14 inches in diameter, across San Anselmo, Greenbrae, and Fairfax. The rehabilitation will include the replacement of 642 LF through open-cut and 14,742 LF via a planned process called "pipe bursting." Additionally, the project will install approximately 241 LF of new 8-inch sewer main in Greenbrae. Most of the project locations are within public rights-of-way or designated easements across private properties.

The primary goal of this rehabilitation is to mitigate the risk of sanitary sewer overflows by rectifying defects that could cause overflows and sealing leaks to reduce inflow and infiltration during wet weather.

Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



*Road Work Ahead sign.*

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## Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

The contractor, Pacific Infrastructure Corporation, has begun preliminary potholing work at Lift Stations (LS) 31 and 32 on Riviera Circle. Construction is expected to begin at those stations in March.

The District's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified LS 31, 32, and 20 as the

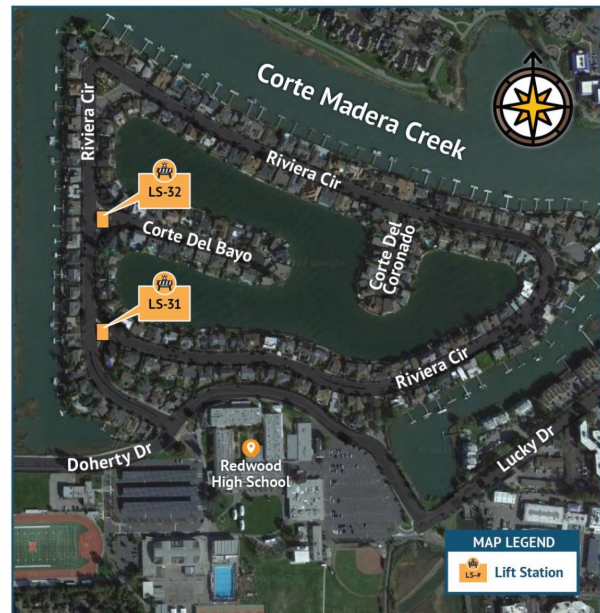


highest priority lift stations for upgrading based on a District-wide risk assessment. Since their configurations are similar, they were combined into one project to take advantage of economies of scale. LS20 is in Larkspur Landing next to East Sir Francis Drake Blvd, and near the northbound 101 on-ramp. LS31 and LS32 are located on Riviera Circle at Via la Brisa and Corte del Bayo, respectively, in the Larkspur Marina neighborhood.

The project will convert the lift stations to submersible pump configurations, saving maintenance and energy costs. The project also includes replacing the two small force mains for the LS31 and LS32 lift stations as they are made of deteriorating ACP pipe, an inferior pipe material used in the 1960s and 1970s that is targeted for replacement by the District throughout the service area. New electrical control panels, communications equipment, and flow meters will improve reliability of the lift stations and allow for faster response times to issues at each station.

Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

#### LIFT STATIONS 31 & 32 Improvements Project (#907)



Please 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.

Sincerely,

Steve Moore, General Manager

## Stay Connected

**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.

## Public Meetings

The Ross Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors conducts monthly public meetings. The public is invited to attend these in-person meetings, held at our new Board Assembly Room:

## Ross Valley Sanitary District

1111 Andersen Drive

San Rafael, 94901

The public can also attend the meeting 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. For more information, please click [here](#) or contact the District's Board Clerk at 415-259-2949 or [clerk@rvsd.org](mailto:clerk@rvsd.org).

**The next RVSD Special Board Meeting is scheduled  
for Wednesday, February 14, 2024.**

Meeting Access

Agenda Posting

Want an alert when the next Board Meeting agenda is available?

Please write to our [Clerk of the Board](#) to request upcoming agenda alerts.

## Sewer FAQs

Review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that explain sewer overflows, what to do if you see one, and other commonly asked questions about the sewer system.

Review FAQs

## 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.

Learn More

Home

Our Projects

Sustainability

Contact Us

## Contact Us

### Phone & Email

[415-259-2949](tel:415-259-2949) (24/7)  
Email: [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org)

### Hours

Mon - Fri  
7:30 a.m. - noon  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

### New Address

1111 Andersen Dr  
San Rafael, CA 94901

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Ross Valley Sanitary District | 1111 Andersen Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901

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