



General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

August 2024



Rowers Enjoying a Day on Clean Waters in Marin County.

As we wrap up August, the District continues to uphold its commitment to providing exceptional service to Marin County. This month's bulletin highlights our steadfast efforts to prevent public sewer spills by showcasing our recent accomplishments, including repairing 47 defects, responding to service calls, and removing debris from the public sewer — all of which contributed to achieving a successful “no spill” month. We remain dedicated to ensuring the continued success of our sewer management while striving to provide the highest level of service to our community and fostering a cleaner, healthier environment.

Our headquarters are located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. As always, the RVSD public lobby is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 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

Enhancing Sewer Infrastructure with Trenchless Repairs

RVSD staff continue to work diligently installing trenchless point repairs to enhance public sewer infrastructure. Trenchless point repairs are an innovative method that allows us to address public sewer issues efficiently without requiring permits, digging up streets, or causing road disruptions, enabling us to complete multiple repairs a day. Unlike traditional replacements, which can be very costly, trenchless point repairs restore existing infrastructure to serviceable standards more efficiently.

In July, our team successfully completed a substantial **47** trenchless point repairs across various locations throughout the District. This proactive approach helps reduce the need for frequent line cleaning by addressing root intrusion and other vulnerabilities in the system. These repairs play a crucial role in minimizing sewer spills and enhancing the efficiency of our line cleaning program. To learn more about our cost-effective point repair method, watch our video [here](#).



Staff Preparing a Trenchless Point Repair.

Preventing Public Sewer Spills from Older Sewers

During maintenance on Merced Avenue and Fern Lane in San Anselmo, our staff discovered unusually high amounts of debris in a larger diameter public sewer. Our Condition Assessment crew was called in and identified a 14-inch pipe that was 80% blocked and allowing heavy debris to enter the main line. This unreinforced concrete sewer used to be part of the original trunk line through San Anselmo in the early 20th century, but now functions as a local neighborhood sewer.

The teams worked together for several hours to clear the debris and found a significant hole (Grade 5 defect) in the pipe joint. Grade 5 defects are the most severe and indicate serious damage. Our repair supervisor was also on-site to assess the situation and coordinate a repair plan. Prompt repair of these defects is crucial to prevent sewer spills and ensure the system's reliability. Failure to address these can lead to costly and disruptive issues for both RVSD and the community. Thanks to our staff's prompt action and teamwork, we were able to prevent a public sewer spill and repair an old but serviceable sewer line.



Dye Test of Public Sewer Containing 3/4-Inch Rock Debris.

Responding to Service Calls

Another way we prevent public sewer spills is by responding promptly to service calls. In July, our staff responded to eight service calls, including issues such as sink holes, private sewer spills, sewer odors, standing water, and plumber coordination for debris catchment. While most of these issues are private matters, we encourage residents to contact us promptly when they notice a spill, as private spills can lead to larger public spills.

One reoccurring service call we are happy to respond to is plumbers contacting us for debris catchment. If plumbers are clearing roots or debris from a private lateral or inadvertently get debris into the public sewer, they should contact us for free assistance. Our team can send a crew to catch the debris and prevent sewer spills.

If you see any of the spills shown in the photo, **contact us immediately at our 24/7 Emergency Response Line, 415-259-2949**. To learn more, visit our website and watch our “Call Us First” video [here](#).



Sewer Spill Examples.

Fats, Oils, Grease, and GLOVES?

You're probably familiar with FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease), but have you heard of FOGG (Fats, Oils, Grease, and Gloves)? We hadn't either—until recently.

Our staff recently discovered latex gloves in the public sewer. While fats, oils, and grease are known to clog sewers, latex gloves can cause even bigger issues. Keep these items out of the sewer!

To prevent clogs and spills in both household and restaurant plumbing, as well as public sewer lines, it's important to properly dispose of items that don't belong in the pipes. FOG and especially gloves can lead to significant blockages in the sewer system.

Properly dispose of gloves in the trash and use a paper towel to wipe FOG from cooking utensils, dishes, or pots, then throw the paper towel away. This simple step can significantly reduce the risk of a sewer spill.

One resident shared, “We recently installed a new kitchen sink and, along with it, new piping underneath. I was shocked by the amount of FOG buildup inside. We now diligently wipe down every dish with a paper towel and throw the paper towel away before handwashing everything.”

Click here to view a video about FOG on our website [here](#).



Keep Fats, Oils & Grease Out of Your Plumbing.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

FY 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

This capital project is progressing smoothly and remains on schedule with minimal disruptions thus far. All work in San Anselmo and Fairfax is complete, and work in Greenbrae is wrapping up.

The project includes two areas in Greenbrae that had significant sewer backups into residences in October 2021 due to root intrusion and structural and capacity issues. This work will occur this summer while school is not in session.

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

Visit the project [webpage](#) for more information and updates. Click [here](#) to learn more about RVSD access to public utility easements on private property for essential routine maintenance and repairs.



Replacing Old Sewer Line in Fairfax.

Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

Work is ongoing at Lift Stations (LS) 31 and 32, and we are in the final stages of completing work on the two force mains located in Riviera Circle. Concrete vaults and electrical work are now under construction. Work at LS20 will commence this month.

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. New electrical control panels, communications equipment, and flow meters will improve the 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.



Wet Well Cleaning in Progress.

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.

**The next RVSD Regular Board Meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday, September 18, 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](#)

Contact Us

Phone & Email

[415-259-2949](tel:415-259-2949) (24/7)
Email: 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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