



125 Years of Service

Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

February 2024



Ross Creek running under Shady Lane in Ross.

As winter wanes into spring, we're excited to share the latest RVSD updates. We are committed to environmental stewardship and keeping you informed about our efforts to preserve Marin's natural beauty while helping to ensure efficient and sustainable wastewater management practices.

In this edition of the monthly GM Bulletin, we highlight recent achievements, project status updates, and valuable resources to help you join us in our mission towards a cleaner more sustainable future.

Please note that we have moved into our new headquarters located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. As always, RVSD public lobby office hours are open 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

Life-saving CPR and First Aid Training

This month, all RVSD staff members completed CPR and First Aid training. Our commitment to safety extends beyond the confines of our infrastructure into the very heart of our community. Because emergencies can happen anywhere, anytime, having well-trained individuals ready to respond can make all the difference.

In collaboration with local healthcare professionals, our team participated in comprehensive training sessions designed to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to respond effectively in emergency situations. From learning the proper techniques for administering CPR to understanding how to address common injuries and medical emergencies, the detailed training helps each employee to be prepared to handle a wide range of life saving scenarios.



RVSD staff during CPR training.

Lost and Found

In our ongoing efforts to maintain the integrity and efficiency of our wastewater system, field staff continuously search for and locate "lost" access points. Occasionally, this search leads to the discovery of manholes that have been covered up by landscaping or structures on easements. Through collaboration with property owners, our team successfully identified two of these obscured access points and are working with the property owners to ensure they are readily accessible for maintenance and inspection purposes. By uncovering these hidden manholes, we can proactively address potential issues and uphold the functionality of our wastewater infrastructure.

We extend our gratitude to residents and businesses for their cooperation in this endeavor, as their support and assistance plays a vital role in safeguarding the health and sustainability of our local environment.



Manhole found under a staircase on an easement.

Fleet Upgrade

Sewer pipe cleaning is a crucial task essential for breaking

blockages, removing grease, debris, and deposits, and preparing for pipe repairs. Specialized sewer cleaning "combination trucks" are equipped with both a high-pressure water hose to scour pipe walls and a vacuum to pull out debris, effectively addressing potential blockages in the sewer system through dual mechanisms on a single vehicle. This highly efficient equipment is indispensable for the effective operation of the District.

In June 2023, the RVSD Board approved the purchase of a new combination truck to replace the existing one, which was nearing the end of its useful life and frequently out of service for repairs. This month, the new vehicle was completed, and the District anticipates having it in service within the next few weeks. With this upgrade to a more reliable vehicle, staff will be better equipped to maintain a rigorous flushing schedule, furthering the District's mission to prevent avoidable sewer spills.



New Vac-Con "Combo" Truck.

Easement Education

In our community, public sewer utility easements make up 35% of the public sewer system and fulfill a crucial role in helping to ensure the proper functioning of our wastewater infrastructure. Easements provide authorized personnel access to specific areas of private property where essential sewer lines, manholes, and other infrastructure are located. By granting Ross Valley staff access to these easements, property owners contribute to the collective effort to safeguard public health and protect the environment.

It's important for residents and businesses to understand the significance of these easements and to refrain from obstructing or encroaching upon them, as doing so could hinder vital maintenance activities and compromise the integrity of the sewer system. As stewards of our community's wastewater infrastructure, we appreciate the cooperation and support of property owners in upholding the integrity of these easements, thereby ensuring the continued reliability of the sewer system.

Please visit our webpage on [Sewer Utility Easements](#), which includes an interactive parcel search map and [here](#) to view a video about Utility Easements on the District website.



Graphic of easement access.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Construction crews continue to work on punch list items and clean up for this project. Project completion has moved to late spring pending corrective work being completed by the contractor.

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



Creek where construction was completed.

Fiscal Year 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

The Board of Directors approved the construction contract for Glosage Engineering at the Board Meeting on February 14. The Notice to Proceed was issued on February 20 and construction is expected to begin in San Anselmo the first week of March.

The project scope is to rehabilitate approximately 15,384 linear feet (LF) of sewer main, ranging from four 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 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 spills and backups into buildings. It includes increasing pipe sizes, rectifying defects that could cause spills and installing leak-resistant HDPE sewer mains to reduce inflow and infiltration during wet weather.

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



Construction crew working on a sewer replacement.

Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

Construction on Lift Station 20 is expected to begin mid-March. Construction on Lift Stations 31 and 32 has been temporarily postponed pending completion of underground utility work by PGE.

The District's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified these three lift stations 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.

Ross Valley Lift Station 32 on Riviera Circle.

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

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



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.



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, March 20, 2024.**

Meeting Access

Agenda Posting

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

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.

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Contact Us

Phone & Email

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

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

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