



Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

April 2023



Photo above Left to Right: Travis Fisher, Incoming Collections System Committee Chair, Ojai Valley Sanitary District; John Vogel, RVSD Operations Supervisor; Matt Jazuk, RVSD Senior Collection System Worker; Paul Bruemmer, RVSD O&M Manager; and Steve Cano, Costa Mesa Sanitary District.

April was an exciting month as the District was selected by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) as the Wastewater Collection System of the Year. This honor was in the category of "small system" (less than 250 miles in length) and announced at the annual CWEA conference.

This prestigious award is a testament to our commitment to excellence and our mission to protect public health and the environment. See the accomplishments section below for more information about this award.

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.

Accomplishments

Statewide Collection System of the Year Award

Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) was presented with the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award in the category of "small system." RVSD was selected as the top sewer system in the state in 2022 out of the hundreds of systems less than 250 miles in length.

To be considered in each award category, nominees must be a current CWEA member, hold a current Collection Systems Certification by CWEA, and have direct operations/maintenance responsibilities in a collection system.

More information about the award presented to the

District can be found on the CWEA website by clicking [here](#).



Photo above Left to Right: Incoming CWEA President-Elect Charles Greely from Dudek; Matt Jazuk, RVSD Senior Collection System Worker; John Vogel, RVSD Operations Supervisor; Paul Bruemmer, RVSD O&M Manager; and WEF President-Elect Aimee R. Kellen from Providence Engineering and Environmental Group.

Fairfax Creek Crossing Tree Clearing

The Condition Assessment crew completed a pipe assessment of a six-inch sewer main that crosses Fairfax Creek. During their assessment, the crew identified a tree growing around the main. Removing the tree is a high priority because as the tree grows, it makes the pipe more vulnerable to breaking, which could result in a sewer spill into the creek below.

To remove the tree, the Operations Department hired a contractor to cut the tree off the pipe. The contractor used a crane over the creek to support the load of the tree as they cut it away from the pipe. Thankfully, the work was successful, and the tree was completely removed off the sewer creek crossing.



Before and after of the creek crossing sewer main.

Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan Updates

Staff collaborated with DKF solutions to update the District's [Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan](#) (SERP). The SERP is a how-to guide for staff on responding, cleaning, reporting, and properly documenting sewer spills that occur within the District's service area.

District staff are required to report all spills and take appropriate action to secure a spill area. This plan ensures that staff responds to sewer spills as soon as possible to minimize health hazards to the public and protect the environment.

The new SERP brings the District into compliance with the State Water Board's new Statewide Order for wastewater collection systems, which becomes effective June 5, 2023, so we completed the task two months ahead of schedule. The SERP replaces the District's

Ross Valley Sanitary District Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan

Effective Date: April 5, 2023
Revised Date: _____
Approved by: Steven M. Moore, General Manager
Signature: _____
Date: April 5, 2023

Prepared by: David Patner
DVF Solutions Group, LLC
dpatner@dvfsolutions.com



Cover of RVSD Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan.
Click the image above to view the plan.

Got Roots?

Staff responded to a service call on Ridgecrest Road in Kent Woodlands. A contractor was removing a large root ball from a lateral and had called for assistance.

We encourage contractors to contact us when this occurs, as each year we send out a reminder to local businesses that we will respond free of charge.

Staff will perform these service requests as a courtesy as it is beneficial to the District to remove root balls from the system, including laterals. If root balls are not removed they can travel into the gravity sewer main and cause blockages that result in sewer spills.



Example of a root ball extracted from a sewer main..

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements

Work on the FY 2022/23 project is complete, except for final paving in a few remaining areas. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Gravity sewer replacement in an easement.

Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24, & 25 Improvements

Installation of the new automatic transfer switch (ATS) at PS14 was completed on April 11. This critical piece of equipment ensures that backup power comes on automatically if there is a PG&E outage, as has been common during these recent storms. The ATS starts up the backup generator that keeps the pumps going during the power outage and prevents backup of wastewater into the southern Larkspur sewer system.

The ATS had been damaged by previous water leakage into the pump station and the upgrade ensures reliable 24/7 pump station operation into the future. Delivery of the PS 24 & 25 generators, located along South Eliseo Drive, is expected in late May and early June, which is the final element of this project. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

Lift Station 20, 31, 32 Pump Stations Improvements

The final design is complete, and the project is getting prepared to go out to bid. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

The final design is complete, and the project is getting prepared to go out to bid. Staff have applied for permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

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.

Get Involved

Members of the public are invited to attend RVSD Regular Board Meetings in-person at Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA), 1301 Andersen Drive, San Rafael. Members of 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. These Board Meetings are hybrid.

The next RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

[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 being included in 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.

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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.

Address

2960 Kerner Blvd
San Rafael, CA 94901

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