

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin August 2021

Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) 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 prefer to receive this information, please select Unsubscribe at the bottom of this message. Visit us online at www.RVSD.org for more information.

It's another busy summer season for the District, with construction of this year's [Capital Improvement Program](#) in full swing as we continue to upgrade our outdated infrastructure across the Ross Valley interconnected sewer system. The District's Associate Engineer, [Phil Benedetti](#), is shown in Sequoia Park, San Anselmo while scoping a planned construction area for the 2020/2021 Gravity Sewer Improvement Project.



This is a big year for us as we wrap up our backlog of capital work in compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Cease-and-Desist Order.

Making these improvements to our 120-year-old system is essential to help protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows.



We are OPEN to the Public

Our public lobby office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Due to recent recommendations of the Marin County Health Officer, all visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask while inside our offices. We appreciate your cooperation! We continue to respond promptly to emails and phone calls. Please send your email to info@rvsd.org or call us at 415-259-2949.

Ross Valley Sanitary District office headquarters are at 2960 Kerner Blvd in San Rafael.

2021 Capital Improvement Projects Progress Report

The District has awarded the [Ross Creek Sewer Removal Project](#) construction contract, permits have been received from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, clearing the way for the fish habitat restoration project. In October 2019 the District installed a sewer siphon

seven feet beneath the creek bed by the Shady Lane Bridge at Locust Ave and abandoned the original 1926 sewer in the bed of Ross Creek, which is a known fish barrier.

This project includes removal of the concrete encased, 21-inch diameter abandoned sewer from the creek bed (photo above right) and replacing it with an engineered “riffle”, or rapids, to improve steelhead trout migration to and from the ocean. We anticipate construction to take place early fall, before the rainy season. In June we received a \$20,190 grant from the California Fish Passage Forum for this ecologically beneficial project.



Work continues on Butterfield Road (photo on left) as part of the [Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements Project](#) and is anticipated for completion at the end of this month.

After work is complete on Butterfield Road, crews are expected to begin work in September on Fawn Drive between Butterfield Road and just up the road past Fawn Court. Visit our project web page for construction updates and more information.

Work on the [FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project](#) began in July on Rancheria Road and Laurel Way in Kent Woodlands. Work in Kent Woodlands is now complete and work has begun in Larkspur on South Eliseo Drive (photo on right).

Work on South Eliseo Drive will wrap up mid-September and then work will begin in Sequoia Park (San Anselmo). Visit our project web page for updates and more information.



Construction on the [Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24 & 25 Improvements Project](#) is anticipated to begin in the fall. Two of these pump stations are located on South Eliseo Drive. The larger PS 14 is on Doherty Drive, next to Hall Middle School. Pump Station improvements include generator upgrades for back-up power at all three stations.

Improvements at PS 14 will also include replacing pump/level controls with a new PLC-based control system, reviewing the odor control system for additional capacity, and other deferred maintenance.

Pump Station Operations Supervisor Noel Sandoval is shown (photo above left) explaining the planned improvements to PS 25.

[Click here](#) for more information about District capital improvement projects in progress this summer and to view our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project webpage.

Employment Opportunities at RVSD

The district is currently accepting applications for an open position as Accountant I/II/Senior. Applications are due by Sunday, September 19, with interviews anticipated on October 1. Please visit our [Current Opportunities](#) page for more information and application instructions.

Manhole Drop Connections

Sewer systems are designed to maximize flow efficiency and minimize turbulence, which in turn keeps corrosive sewer gases like hydrogen sulfide in liquid form and the resulting odors under control. In Ross Valley's challenging topographic setting (with its hills and valleys), many of the places where two sewer mains meet and join at a node (an access point or manhole), the elevations are not always in sync to ensure a smooth, non-turbulent flow pattern. Most manholes are made of reinforced concrete (concrete with steel rebar) and are vulnerable to corrosion by sewer gases. In some locations smaller sewers or private laterals enter the manhole from a much higher elevation than the larger main line. In these locations, the District specifies a "drop connection" so that the smaller sewer enters at the bottom of the manhole, minimizing spray, turbulence and odors.



The picture above shows a manhole being rehabilitated in Larkspur near the Heather Gardens pump station in May 2021. This manhole has an unusual square structure. Most manholes in the District are round. These drop connections can be outside the manhole, which make them harder to clean and inspect, or if the manhole is large enough, we have been installing them inside the manhole as shown in the picture. The concrete walls had been corroded by sewer gases being emitted from the unmanaged drop connection higher up in the structure, creating a constant wastewater waterfall. The rehabilitation included installing a PVC plastic internal drop connection to smooth the flow of wastewater to the bottom of the manhole, minimizing spray, turbulence, gas and odor emissions. A non-toxic epoxy coating was added to the manhole interior to repair the concrete and protect the underlying steel rebar from corrosion and collapse.

The RVSD repair crew works under the leadership of District employee [Manuel "Manny" Vigil](#) to organize these specialty repairs, which are conducted by outside contractors as needed as part of our regular Operations and Maintenance (O&M) repair activities. These repairs do not impact the surrounding pavement or surface improvements, as all work occurs within the manhole itself. These system upgrades help fulfill our commitment to minimize the impact of odors from the wastewater system while also ensuring overall cost-effective longevity. Great work team!!

Safety Continues as a Top Priority

Our fully trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state and federal safety and quality protocols for managing the RVSD sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. Every day, their work ensures our interconnected wastewater collection system, pumping equipment and essential District services continue to run smoothly.

Steve Moore, General Manager

Important Reminders:

If you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow or leaking pipe, or you see or smell sewage on the ground, please contact us immediately for a 24-hour response at [415-259-2949](tel:415-259-2949). Our emergency crews are available 365 days per year, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Calling us first will result in a faster response than any private company, possibly preventing a discharge to a creek!

[Click here](#) for our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) explaining sewer overflows and what to do.

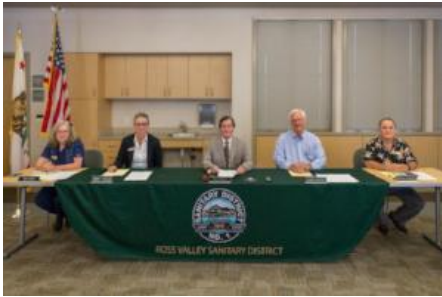
Before hiring a plumbing contractor, [click here](#) to check the California Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board (CSLB) for more information. Make sure any plumber you hire is familiar with district policies and programs for any private property sewer emergency.

Follow our LinkedIn page [here](#) to stay up to date on current job announcements.

We are also on nextdoor

Subscribe to our Nextdoor page [here](#) to find out if there will be construction in your neighborhood.

nextdoor



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 but are likely to resume in person after September 30th, when the Governor's COVID-19 emergency declaration expires.

The next RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5 p.m. via GoToMeeting.

[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 to be included in upcoming agenda alerts.



Ross Valley Sanitary District

You can receive
\$1,500-\$2,500
in Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP)
funds toward the cost of **replacing**
your sewer lateral.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more, or visit www.RVSD.org/LRGP

Click here to visit
RVSD.org