

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

December 2022



Everyone at RVSD wishes you a happy and safe holiday as we mark the end of 2022. We appreciate your continued efforts to keep Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) out of the sewer system throughout the holiday season and into the new year, especially during this rainy season!

This final edition for 2022 describes the accomplishments and operations of the District since last month. Our continued mission is to enhance the wastewater infrastructure we all depend on daily. The efficient management of a wastewater collection system is critical to minimizing performance failures and potential effects that may harm public health and the environment.

## Accomplishments

### CWEA Awards

The District **received two awards** from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Redwood Empire Section in December. The Redwood Empire Section includes Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Lake and parts of Mendocino counties. The **first award** is the Award for Collection System of the Year – Small. The last time the District won the Collection System of the Year Award (Small) for the Redwood Empire Section was in 2019.

The **second award** is the Community Outreach and Engagement Award, given to the District for the [public service announcement \(PSA\) videos](#) that are aired on Comcast Cable TV in partnership with all the other Marin County wastewater agencies. You may have noticed the PSAs watching sports or your favorite Cable TV programs this fall. They remind us about the things to not put in the sewers, including Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG), disposable wipes and rags, and unused pharmaceutical drugs. These two awards showcase RVSD as a leader in protecting and enhancing our water environment.



*RVSD Staff Group Photo*

## New Trenchless Pipe Repair Outreach Video

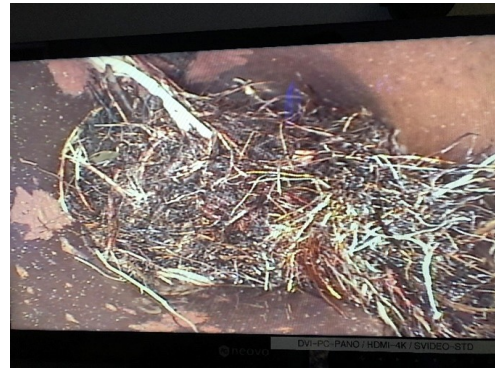
Staff worked with [Ryan McGeary Productions](#) to create a new outreach video that features the District's repair crew completing a trenchless pipe repair. It is "trenchless" because it does not require excavating a trench in the street or through properties, which is a major expense and inconvenience. Trenchless pipe repair is a cost-effective repair that utilizes an internal, cured-in-place fiberglass sleeve known as a pipe patch to fix a defect in a pipe. In the video, staff highlight the process of installing the pipe patch and discuss the benefits of this pipe repair method. Watch the video by clicking the image to the right or clicking [here](#).



*Click the image above to watch the video*

## Kent Woodlands Sewer Spill Corrective Action

In response to a recent sewer spill incident in Kent Woodlands, staff inspected manholes and other nodes with similar characteristics within the area for root intrusion. Staff found root growth between the cured-in-place pipe liners installed as part of the FY 15/16 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project and the old pipes. The roots have grown into manholes/nodes in this area. In one of the manholes the root growth blocked outflows and backed up the wastewaters to overflow onto the street and into a gutter, where our responders contained and cleaned up the spill. Staff has reassessed the inspection and cleaning schedule in response to these findings. They are working to make corrections to resolve the root intrusion.



*Pipe with root intrusion*

## Innovative Solution to Sewer Access in Memorial Park, San Anselmo

There are larger diameter sewers that cross beneath San Anselmo's Memorial Park that RVSD has not been able to access for cleaning since they were buried sometime around 1980. This condition raises the risk of sewer spills in this part of the system, and since the sewer diameters are larger, any spills caused by a blockage have the potential to be large and hazardous. To address this deficiency, RVSD worked closely with Town staff during their park renovation project construction this year and raised these manholes to grade.

Our Operations & Maintenance Superintendent, Josh Hill, came up with a solution to address the safety concerns of manhole lids in the park. The solution is to attach artificial turf and a layer of foam to the top of plastic manhole lids to have the same feel and characteristics as the surrounding turf in the park. To ensure ongoing safety, RVSD will routinely monitor the condition of these manhole lids.



*Construction of the turf manhole*





# Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

## Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24, & 25 Improvements

Construction continues at PS 14, the District's major pump station serving the southern half of Larkspur and located adjacent to Hall Middle School. Work is now focused on testing the pump station's control system and preparing for final paving and site work. Various electrical improvements were also completed. PS 24 & 25, located along South Eliseo Drive, are going to have their backup power systems upgraded, but the generators are still delayed due to supply-chain issues. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information.



*Example of a pump station control system*

## FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements and Immediate I&I Benefits

Work in the Kent Woodlands along South Ridgewood Road is complete except for final paving. It is not often that we see instant results in measuring the impact of our capital improvements, but because we had a “test storm” at the end of December we were able to see positive, measurable benefits. This work and other work completed this fall on Woodland Road between Laurel Way and Evergreen Drive appeared to have reduced storm water infiltration and inflow (I&I) in Kent Woodlands sanitary system.

During the December 27, 2022, storm, where 3.8 inches of rain fell in Kentfield in the early morning, the SmartCover on Woodland Road near Goodhill Road showed significantly lower water levels compared to the October 24, 2021, storm (9 inches in 12 hours) that caused the sewer spill that same day at South Ridgewood Road. We will continue to monitor the system water levels in this area to confirm the benefits of our capital improvements.

Currently, the contractor Glosage is working on a sewer main easement near Wolfe Grade and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Greenbrae, timed for when school is not in session. Upcoming work is planned in San Anselmo along Santa Barbara Avenue, and in Kentfield along Oak Avenue. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information.



*Glosage fusing pipe in Kent Woodlands*

## Lift Station 20, 31, 32 Pump Stations Improvements

The District has received the 65% design plans and the plans are in review by staff. This project addresses aging equipment at minor lift stations, prioritized by our 2021 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP). Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

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## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Staff expect to receive the 90% plans and specs at the beginning of 2023. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

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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.

Happy New Year,



**Steve Moore, General Manager**

## Remember

**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.

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## Get Involved

**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.

**The next RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.**

[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.

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## 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](#)

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## 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

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#### Phone & Email

**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.**

#### Address

**2960 Kerner Blvd**  
**San Rafael, CA 94901**

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