

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

July 2023

**AS SEEN IN**

**Ross Valley Sanitary District Shines:  
From Utility Transformation  
to Statewide Recognition!**

Ross Valley Sanitary District has been recognized for its **excellent** operations and commitment to innovation, as the utility was named Wastewater Collection System of the Year by the California Water Environment Association

July 11, 2023 - Just two short years ago, Municipal Sewer & Water profiled the Ross Valley Sanitary District – a wastewater utility hailing from San Rafael, California – which had undergone a comprehensive transformation. The utility has been awarded the prestigious Wastewater Collection System of the Year in the Small System category by the California Water Environment Association. 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.

“Our focus on delivering projects and results in a data-driven manner, at all levels of our organization, was recognized by the CWEA judges. We will continue to look for innovative and cost-effective ways to provide excellent customer service to our local community, while renewing and maintaining the infrastructure that protects our health and water environment.”  
– Steve Moore, RVSD General Manager

(Photo Credit: Gollin Chappelle)

Ross Valley Sanitary District General Manager Steve Moore (second from left), is joined with operations managers, from left, Noel Sandoval, Manny Virgil and Rafael Zarco in the district's yard in Larkspur, California

July has been a busy month, culminating in the Pump Station 14 (Larkspur) ribbon cutting on July 19. More than 50 community members and agency officials attended the celebration. Additionally, RVSD was featured in the July issue of Municipal Sewer & Water magazine, “From Utility Transformation to Statewide Recognition.” The article acknowledges RVSD as the proud recipient of the esteemed 2022 CWEA Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award. Click the image to the left to read the full article and read below for our other noteworthy accomplishments, updates, and notifications.

## Accomplishments

### Pump Station 14 Ribbon Cutting

District staff, local community members and agency officials celebrated the successful completion of upgrades at Pump Station 14 on Doherty Drive in Larkspur (next to Hall Middle School). The Pump Station 14 project replaced outdated infrastructure to enhance reliability, efficiency and improve performance during wet weather and power outages. In addition, the project installed a highly effective odor control system which is beneficial for the adjacent middle school.

The event was filled with exciting activities as guests had the opportunity to tour the PS14 facility, savor light refreshments, and enjoy the eclectic tunes of the Golden Gate Brass Band. The program featured remarks from key speakers, and the festivities reached their peak with the symbolic cutting of the ribbon, signifying the completion of the pump station and marking the end of a decade-long era of accelerated capital projects in the Ross Valley service area.



Pump Station 14 (Larkspur) Ribbon Cutting Participants

Projects like these, funded by ratepayers, play a crucial role in safeguarding public health and the environment. They ensure the smooth flow of wastewater to the treatment plant and reduce the risk of sewer overflows, ultimately protecting the community and its surroundings. The successful completion of Pump Station 14 is a testament to the District's commitment to excellence and its continuous efforts to improve the collection system infrastructure for the benefit of all. [View the News Release](#) to read more.

included (L-R): RVSD Operations Supervisor Noel Sandoval, RVSD General Manager Steve Moore, RVSD Board of Directors Pamela Meigs, Doug Kelly, Tom Gaffney, Mary Sylla and Michael Boorstein, and Marin County Director of Public Works Rosemarie Gaglione.



RVSD General Manager Steve Moore explains to attendees the Capital Improvement Projects Map that highlights more than 20 projects completed between 2013-2023.

## Emergency Response Plan Updates

The District is committed to emergency response procedures to protect public health and the environment. District staff collaborated with DKF Solutions to update the District's Sewer Emergency Response Plan (SERP). The purpose of the SERP is to support a prompt, orderly and effective response to spills (wastewater), reduce spill volumes, and collect information for prevention of future spills. A "spill" is defined as a discharge of sewage from any portion of a sanitary sewer system due to a sanitary sewer system overflow, operational failure, and/or infrastructure failure.

The SERP provides guidelines for District personnel to follow in responding to, cleaning up, reporting, and properly documenting spills that may occur within the District's service area. This SERP satisfies the State Water Board Order No. WQ 2022-0103-DWQ which requires wastewater collection agencies to have a Spill Emergency Response Plan.

District staff is responsible for taking appropriate action to secure the spill area, properly report to the appropriate regulatory agencies, relieve the cause of the spill, and ensure that the affected area is cleaned as soon as possible to minimize health hazards to the public and protect the environment. The District responds to sewer system spills as soon as possible following notification.

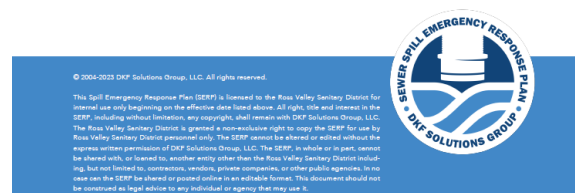
Remember, if you see a public sewer emergency such as a manhole overflow, leaking pipe, or sewage on the ground, **please call the RVSD Emergency Line 24/7 at 415-259-2949 as soon as possible**. When making an emergency call, be prepared to provide your name, phone number, and address where the incident occurs. After-hours calls will route to our on-call staff for immediate assistance.

A regular update of emergency response planning ensures that the necessary measures are in place,

## 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 Patten  
DKF Solutions Group, LLC  
dipatten@dkfsolutions.com



Click the screenshot to view the District's current Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan.



providing an important tool to the District's team for prompt and effective response to any potential incidents. More information about the District's sewer system management plan and spill emergency response plan can be found on the [Sanitary System Management Plan webpage](#).



*District employees reviewing safety protocols & procedures.*

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## Blockage Busters

During a routine cleaning of the District main sewer line in the Town of Ross, maintenance staff discovered a blockage in a section of pipe. Multiple attempts were made to clear the line through jetting (a high-pressure water hose) but the crew was not able to break through the blockage. Determined to restore flow to the pipe and prevent a sewer spill, staff performed a video camera investigation to identify the cause of the blockage and find a course of action. Staff discovered that a contractor had disconnected approximately 20 feet of the District's sewer pipe and had conducted additional unpermitted work on the sewer system. Staff promptly addressed the issue and referred the contractor to RVSD's Engineering/Inspections Department for an immediate resolution



*Line Maintenance cleaning a sewer pipe with a high-pressure water hose.*

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## Condition Assessment Investigative Findings

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff conducted a video survey at the bridge crossing between Forrest Ave and Dominga Ave in Fairfax. During the survey, they observed that the cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) liner, installed as part of the 2016/17 Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation Project, is peeling in certain areas. Additionally, there were multiple sags over the span of the bridge and into the abutment on the downhill side.

To address these issues, O&M staff is collaborating with the Engineering Department to determine the appropriate corrective action. Meanwhile, until the necessary repairs are made, this segment of pipe has been added to a high-frequency cleaning schedule, with a cleaning frequency of every six months.



*CCTV footage of the Dominga Ave clay sewer pipe.*

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# Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

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

Staff worked with Pacific Infrastructure and Fowler Electric, connecting and testing newly installed generators and automatic transfer switches at Pump Stations 14, 24 & 25. The generators are in operation and are working as designed. This is one of the last items in the project's scope of work. The project replaced outdated infrastructure to enhance reliability, efficiency and improve performance during wet weather and power outages. The District celebrated the completion of this project at the July 19 Ribbon Cutting Event at PS 14. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



*New Generator at PS 14.*

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## Lift Station 20, 31, & 32 Improvements

At the July 19 Board Meeting, a construction contract was awarded to Pacific Infrastructure Corporation. Staff have begun the procurement process for the necessary electrical components for the project.

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



*LS 20 on Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Larkspur across from the Ferry Building.*

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## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

The project is out to bid and will be opened on August 3. The District's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified sewer creek crossings in the Kent Woodlands area as the highest priority for upgrading based on a District-wide risk assessment. The

project plans to remove several sewers that are exposed within the waterway. Removing these sewers significantly reduces the risk of contamination to Tamalpais Creek and potential damage to the sewer main. It is essential to rehabilitate sewers that cross creeks as it enhances the infrastructure, thereby minimizing the risk of spills and contamination. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



*Creek Crossing at Tamalpais Creek in Kent Woodlands.*

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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.

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## 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, 94901. 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**



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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## Stay Tuned

Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) plans to relocate offices before the end of the year. The new office address and Board Meeting Room will be at 1111 Andersen Dr, San Rafael, 94901. The move-in date is yet to be confirmed, so stay tuned for a specific date and further announcements regarding our move.

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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

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## Contact Us

### Phone & Email

[415-259-2949](tel: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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Ross Valley Sanitary District | 2960 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901

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