

# Ross Valley Sanitary District

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

March 2023



Spring has sprung, bringing more rain as the wildflowers are blooming all around Marin County! We hope you are enjoying the flowers and more hours of daylight. As we progress into the spring months, our staff will continue to maintain system flows and prevent sewer spills throughout the District.

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

### Lift Station 33 (LS33) Successful Upgrades

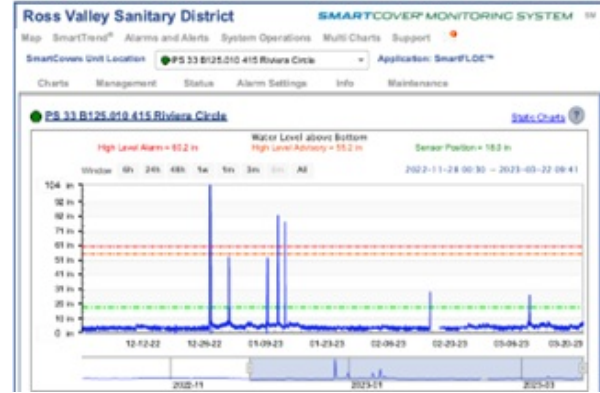
Lift Station 33 (LS33), located on Riviera Circle in Larkspur, is an important facility as it pumps wastewater from the entire Larkspur Marina neighborhood across Corte Madera Creek through a force main to the Bon Air collection system (Pump Station 12).

In recent years we have observed during heavy rain events that this critical station can easily surcharge as the 5-horsepower (hp) pumps have become unable to handle the increased volume of water. When this occurs, staff have responded to high water alarms, sometimes in the middle of the night, and prevented sewer spills using

a portable bypass pump.

To fix this issue, O&M staff recommended installing two new, larger 7.5 hp pumps using the current year pump station improvements capital budget. To accommodate these new pumps, staff worked to upgrade the LS33 circuit breakers. Since completing the installation in mid-February 2023, the lift station has been trouble-free during several subsequent “atmospheric rivers”, freeing up staff to manage other areas of the system.

The SmartCover water level monitor at LS33 graph (shown on the right), has verified that high wastewater levels observed during heavy rainfall events earlier this wet season are comfortably lower with the new larger pumps.



SmartCover monitoring data for LS33

## Avoid an Oops - Call 811 Before You Dig!

When our repair crew was out televising a line in San Anselmo to prepare for a point repair, they documented where a homeowner had unintentionally drilled a 2-inch galvanized pipe into a 6-inch gravity sewer main. We were lucky to identify this problem before a spill or backup occurred. Staff coordinated with the homeowner to remove the galvanized pipe from the sewer main and repair the line as shown in the video with a [point repair patch](#).

Thinking about doing underground work on your property? Make sure to call USA North 811 before you dig! 811 will notify the affected utility companies of your project, and the utilities will send a locator to mark the approximate location of a buried utility. Public utilities are buried on private property throughout Marin County, so don't forget to call 811!



Example of utility markings on a road

## Manhole Inspections are Underway

Throughout the District, Staff performed 122 manhole assessments using an [IBAK](#) panoramic camera. This specialized video camera captures every inch of the manhole from rim (elevation of ground surface) to invert (elevation of bottom of pipe).

After collecting the footage, staff review the video, code the visible defects, and upload the coding data to the District's infrastructure management software. Higher risk defects are then ranked as higher priorities for manhole rehabilitation or replacement in our repair and capital programs. Completing manhole assessments is another contribution towards the District's commitment to complete work recommended in our [2021 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan \(IAMP\)](#).



Placing an IBAK panoramic camera in a manhole



# Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

## FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements

Work on the Wolfe Grade easement and Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Greenbrae is complete. Work on Santa Barbara Ave., Santa Cruz Ave., and Salinas Ave. is also complete. Work on Deer Hollow Road in Sleepy Hollow is almost complete, except for the final paving. The contractor is now working on The Alameda and Caleta. Ave in San Anselmo. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



*Glosage installing new HDPE pipe*

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

Installation of the new Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) at PS14 is planned for 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 will ensure reliable 24/7 pump station operation into the future. Delivery of the PS 24 & 25 generators, located along South Eliseo Drive, is expected within a month's time. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

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

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

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## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Staff is applying for permits at 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.



*Tamalpais Creek street sign*

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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 via Zoom.**

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, April 19, 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](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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