



Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

May 2023



We hope your Memorial Day holiday weekend was restful as we move into summer. May was a busy and exciting month for the District. Staff spent the month tackling maintenance and repair tasks, implementing and planning for future capital improvement projects, and receiving the delivery of a new vehicle! Check out the accomplishments below for more details.

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

A New Addition to the RVSD Fleet

The District now has two sewer-cleaning “combination” trucks. Combination trucks have dual functionality: hydro jetting and vacuuming. The first combo truck has been in service in the District since 2008. It is an oversized truck, with a seven cubic yard debris tank.

This truck has been the primary workhorse for District sewer cleaning jobs for almost two decades! While this truck has served the District well, it has become unreliable due to aging components. Also, many of the narrow, winding roads within the District are difficult to access due to its large size.

The District received board approval in 2022 for the purchase of a smaller more compact sewer-cleaning combination truck, the “mini combo!” The new mini combo truck has the same functionality as the older, larger combo truck.

The new mini combo truck is outfitted with both a hydro-jetter and vacuum, with a smaller three cubic yard debris



The larger combination truck in action.

tank. The new truck will cost less to maintain and be more dependable. And this combo truck can more easily maneuver in many of the District's hard-to-access locations.



The mini combination truck on delivery day.

Inter-Departmental Teamwork Prevents Sewer Spill

Staff performing USA's (Underground Service Alerts) found a segment of pipe on Acacia Ave partially blocked and surcharging. Further investigation found paper and debris building up at the downstream manhole. Line maintenance staff responded and cleared the restriction and prevented the possibility of a spill.

After alleviating the blockage, staff found that the manhole channel had a void holding back debris from flowing freely through the manhole channel. Staff immediately notified the repair supervisor to evaluate and repair the channel defect. After completing the repair, the system began flowing as designed. Thanks to inter-departmental coordination and communication, the issue was addressed quickly and efficiently.



Example of a void in a clay sewer pipe.

Abandoning a Sewer Main

The repair crew eliminated a section of unused sewer main on Cedar Ave in Larkspur. To complete the work, staff removed the rod hole casting, plugged off the upstream sewer main and plugged off the pipe entering the downstream manhole.

This section of sewer main had no active lateral connections and was a source of constant debris and storm water inflow & infiltration (I&I) entering the collection system. These types of abandoned lines are commonly located throughout the Larkspur sewer system that was annexed in 1993. The District has been working diligently to remove them as sources of debris and I&I to possibly prevent a future sewer spill.



Repair crew at work in San Anselmo.

Save the Date - July 19 Pump Station 14 (Larkspur) Ribbon Cutting

The District plans to hold a ribbon cutting to celebrate the

completion of the Pump Station (PS) 14 Project on Wednesday, July 19 at 11:30 am. The event will take place at PS 14 (Larkspur Main) located at 200 Doherty Drive, Larkspur CA. PS 14 is next to Hall Middle School and is the District's third-largest pump station out of 19.

It is known as the "Larkspur Pump Station" because it conveys wastewater from most of the City of Larkspur south of Corte Madera Creek through a force main that crosses Piper Park and then underneath tidal Corte Madera Creek. On the north bank, the force main connects with the system that moves Ross Valley wastewater along the multi-use path, under Highway 101, and through a tunnel on the San Quentin gun range property to the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA) treatment plant next to Highway 580.

This ceremony also celebrates the last capital project required by the Water Board's Cease and Desist Order, ending an era of accelerated capital projects. Please stay tuned for more information as the event date draws nearer.



June 2019 Pump Station 12 ribbon cutting.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements

Work on the FY 2022/23 project is complete. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Glosage paving.

Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24, & 25 Improvements

Staff assisted Pacific Infrastructure, Fowler Electric and Tesco Controls in replacing the ATS (Automatic Transfer Switch) at PS 14 (Larkspur). The ATS is a critical part of the PS 14 power system, which switches to the best available source of power, such as from PG&E to Emergency backup power provided by the station's onsite emergency generator.

This work is the last major element of the station's rehabilitation project. The final component of this two-year project is the delivery and installation of the PS 24 & 25

generators, located along South Eliseo Drive. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Pump Station 14 controller.

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 in June. 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.



A creek located in the project area.

We hope to see you on July 19!

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to a project representative.

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 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 for Wednesday, June 21, 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

Hours

Mon - Fri
7:30 a.m. - noon
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Address

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San Rafael, CA 94901

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