

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin November 2022

Ross Valley Sanitary District (the District) 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 wish to receive this newsletter, please select "Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this message. Visit us online at [www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org) for more information.



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving as we enter the holiday season towards the end of another year. We appreciate everyone's efforts to keep Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) out of the sewer system as you gather to enjoy friends, family and amazing home-cooking. We did not have any FOG-related incidents in our system this past weekend, and that is something for which we at the District are especially thankful!

This month's bulletin describes the accomplishments and operations of the District since last month's edition.

Collectively, this work enhances the wastewater infrastructure we all depend on for our day to day activities. 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.

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.

### Emergency Nighttime Sewer Repair at Gas Main Installation Site

Installing a new utility in a street can be challenging in Marin County. Many streets are narrow, and the underground is crowded with existing and abandoned utility lines for water, sewer, telecommunications, electric and gas mains, as well as service laterals for individual properties.

This month, PG&E was installing a new gas main on a busy street in Larkspur. One night, they called the District's emergency phone line (415-259-2949) because a sewer main (8-inch diameter) was leaking into their trench. Our on-call staff Phil Marcantonio and Noel Sandoval immediately responded and observed a cracked pipe at the bell-and-spigot joint (see photo). The pipe was unsupported leaving the weight of the bell suspended in the air to settle, crack and leak.

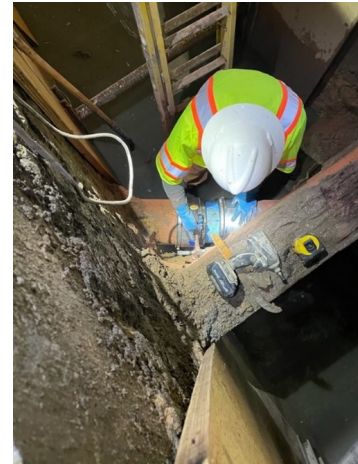




Fortunately, this incident occurred at night when sewer flows are low. Taking advantage of this timing, Noel and Phil were able to contain the flow utilizing the District's Vac-Con vehicle. The Vac-Con is a "combination" specialized sewer vehicle that can vacuum, jet and store wastewater in its 1,500-gallon tank.

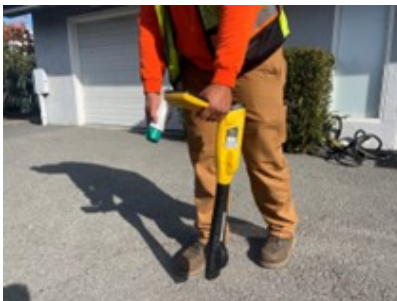
After containing the flow, another RVSD staff member, Manny Vigil, went to work on repairing the cracked pipe. Manny cut out the bell and installed a section of plastic pipe and two repair couplings with stainless steel bands. These quick actions stopped the leak and repaired the sewer on the spot so that PG&E could continue their work.

Finally, the wastewater in the Vac-Con was decanted into a downstream manhole with no environmental impact. RVSD will work with PG&E to recoup these emergency response labor and materials costs. Great work everyone!



### Locating and Mapping a Force Main

The Pump Station and Condition Assessment crews collaborated with the Inspections Department to locate a Pump Station 25 (PS 25) Bypass Force Main that runs through the Marin Health Medical Center parking lot in Greenbrae. A force main is a pressurized pipe downstream of a pump station used in areas where gravity alone cannot convey, or move wastewater. A bypass force main is a secondary force main used when the primary force main is not available. At PS 25, the primary force main goes into the District's Kentfield Force Main in South Eliseo Drive, which is part of the system that is pressurized all the way to the CMSA Treatment Plant in San Rafael.



Due to traffic and hospital infrastructure, this specific bypass force main has been challenging to locate. To find the pipe, staff had to temporarily shut down PS 25 at 1350 South Eliseo Drive so that a locating rod could be inserted in the pipe. The rod emits an electromagnetic signal that allows staff to locate the underground pipe using a locator wand. While locating, staff periodically mark the asphalt with spray paint to show the pipe's location.

Once located, staff used Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to locate the pipe, recording its latitude and longitude in the District's system based on the spray paint markings.

The GPS data points are added to the District's computerized maintenance management system (CMMS), which is synchronized with the District's ArcGIS system map.

This updated data provides a more precise location for the force main, making it easier for staff to find it and mark it for protection in the future. And now the next time you see spray paint markings around a manhole, you will know what they are for!





## 2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects Update

**FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements:** This project was completed in September 2022 and replaced 2.25 miles of gravity sewer in Greenbrae, Larkspur, San Anselmo, Kent Woodlands and Ross. The total cost of this project was \$5.3 million. Visit the [recently completed projects webpage](#) for more information.



**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. This month, staff worked closely with Pacific Infrastructure and Pac Machine to both install and dismantle a bypass pumping system. A pump station shutdown and bypass pumping were necessary for the contractor to upgrade the station's electrical and control systems. The bypass system operated smoothly, and staff remotely monitored system levels utilizing a "Smart Cover" manhole upstream of the pump station.

Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates. Go here to [read more about Smart Covers](#) in the first article of our January 2019 General Manager's Bulletin.

**FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements:** The contractor, Glosage Engineering, is preparing to begin work in early December in Kent Woodlands. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

**Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Pump Stations Improvements:** This project to address aging equipment at minor lift stations, prioritized by our 2021 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP), is in the design phase. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



**Woodland Road Capacity Improvements:** This project to address several Tamalpais Creek crossings is in the design phase. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.

**FY 2023/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Design Services:** Based on the results of a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the consultant services agreement for this project was awarded to Harris & Associates at this month's Board meeting.

More information about the District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is on our [CIP project](#) webpage. You can also visit our [Recently Completed Projects](#) webpage to view the completed projects to date.



**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.

### Important Reminders:

[Review our Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) that explain sewer overflows and what to do if you see one, permit requirements, solutions for odors and/or slow drainage through your toilets, showers and sinks, plus much more!

**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.

Sincerely,



Steve Moore, General Manager



**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, December 21, 2022 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.**

[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 being included in upcoming agenda alerts.



**Ross Valley Sanitary District**

**Your dollars *WORK* to  
*replace* outdated sewer system  
infrastructure throughout our service  
area, *enhancing* local wastewater  
system reliability.**

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