

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin September 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 for more information.



Happy Fall! This month's bulletin provides an overview of the hard work the District accomplished in September. The work involves rehabilitating the wastewater infrastructure on which we depend, enhancing the greater Ross Valley's local wastewater system reliability and efficiency, and protecting 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.

Pump Systems Preventative Maintenance

Staff performed preventative cleaning and maintenance of several pump and lift station wet wells and grit pits. Cleaning keeps foreign debris from building up within the system and extends the life of the pumps and associated piping. In addition, this type of maintenance work keeps the teeth sharp on the grinders whose job is to grind down any foreign objects that come down the pipes and could potentially clog the pumps.

At PS12 (Bon Air) pump station, staff noticed that a floating grease mat they usually clean was not there – this means that the compliance assistance we accomplished working with CMSA and some restaurants has made a difference downstream in the sewer system. Source control and proper operation of grease interceptors are instrumental in keeping maintenance costs down and reducing the risk of overflows and spills.



SmartCover Sewer Spill Prevention

If you see a green reflector on a manhole like in the photo left,



it's a SmartCover. Staff responded to a SmartCover high-level alarm located at a manhole in Larkspur on Diane Ln. Upon arrival, Staff observed the sewer main backing up. Staff relieved a soft blockage 69 feet downstream using a high-pressure flusher.

Staff routinely perform tests and preventative maintenance to the Smart Cover systems installed at various manholes throughout the District.

As a result, the invaluable system continues to deliver accurate real-time flow and capacity information, allowing sufficient time to react to potential sewer spills or other system deficiencies.

Dye Testing and Lateral Repair Notifications

While performing routine CCTV (closed circuit camera in a pipe) assignments to assess their condition, staff simultaneously identify failing lateral connections to the District sewer main. Typically, a failing connection is a pipe that appears broken or contains debris like rock or tree roots. These lateral defects can allow high volumes of water to enter the sewer system through inflow and infiltration (I&I) and are important to identify early and repair. In addition, the debris from failing lateral connections can enter the system and cause clogs that lead to backups or overflows. Upon discovery of voids or failing connections, staff will notify residents and request to perform a dye test to confirm who owns the lateral.

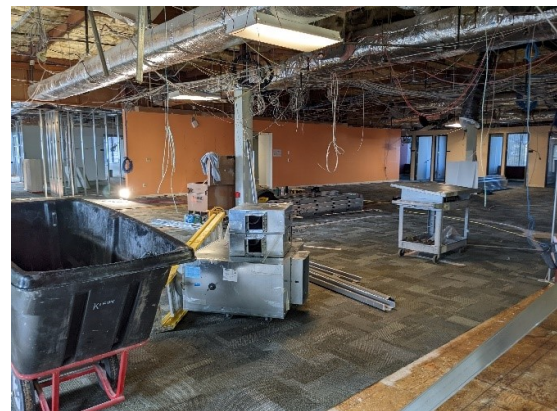


A dye test is when non-toxic, colored, water-soluble dye is dropped into the drain of a building through the toilet or a sink. If water exits the suspected lateral, staff can then confirm which owner needs to be notified of the repair. If no dye is seen, staff must reassess and test a different lateral. Once the failed lateral pipe is identified, staff take note of the location, and depending on the condition of the lateral, staff will send a lateral repair notification letter. In the past month, staff identified eight lateral connections needing repair.

2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects Update

1111 Andersen Headquarters Consolidation Project:

Kirby Construction is wrapping up the demolition phase of the remodel. The next step is work on the building's plumbing, framing, and electrical, including the building's HVAC system



FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project: Work on Woodland Road between Laurel Way and Evergreen Drive was completed in mid-September. This last part of the project ensures this location's adequate hydraulic capacity of



the Kent Woodlands trunk sewer. In addition, it will reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I) of shallow groundwater and stormwater. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information as it becomes available.

Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24, & 25 Improvements

Project: Construction continues at PS 14, the District's major pump station that serves the southern half of Larkspur and is located adjacent to Hall Middle School. The contractor is now working on electrical upgrades. A new backup generator has been installed and improvements to the wet well are complete. Once construction at PS 14 is complete, work on upgrading standby power at PS 24 & 25 on South Eliseo Drive will begin. Visit the [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.



FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project: Bids for this project were opened on September 8. The contract was awarded to Glosage Engineering, Inc., at the September 21 Board Meeting. Construction is expected to begin this October. Visit the new [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.

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



Woodland Road Capacity Improvements: The Board approved the design contract for this project in August, which was split off from the FY 2022/23 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project and expanded along the trunk line and branch sewers that cross Tamalpais Creek in multiple locations. Capacity improvements here will address deficiencies exposed during the record-setting October 24, 2021, storm, when the District experienced a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) to the creek. The project is still in design. Visit the new [project webpage](#) for updates and more information.

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.

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, October 19, 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

You can receive
\$1,500-\$2,500
in Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP)
funds toward the cost of **replacing**
your sewer lateral.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more, or visit www.RVSD.org/LRGP

[Click here to visit RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org)