

## **General Managers' Monthly Bulletin**

**July 2020**

*Ross Valley Sanitary District provides this monthly news bulletin to stay connected to the community we serve. We welcome your feedback on any information in the bulletin, and if at any time you no longer prefer to receive this information please contact via email to [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). You can also visit us online at [www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org) for more information.*



As an essential service, we continue to conduct our daily operations and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations while observing appropriate physical distancing requirements. Our field staff washes their hands frequently with soap, or uses sanitizer, and can be seen wearing RVSD masks as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain community public health. All construction work we conduct takes place in accordance with County Health Order construction requirements.

The [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) began on July 6 and is anticipated to be complete by the end of October 2020. The project team closely coordinates with the construction of the Marin County [Upgrade the Drake Project](#). Pavement restoration will meet County standards. Two segments have been installed in Laurel Grove (between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Cypress Ave.) and private sewer laterals have been reconnected. The up-sized sewer under Sir Francis Drake Blvd. is expected to be installed by August 10. We have good news that night work is not necessary at this location due to lighter traffic conditions than expected.

Cleanup activities continue at the [Larkspur Landing](#) former treatment plant site, as required by the U.S. EPA. The excavation of contaminated soils is complete and remaining work includes backfilling with clean imported soil, removing shoring, off-hauling excavated materials to an approved site and planting

vegetation at the completed site. The major construction activities are anticipated to be complete in August.



Larkspur Landing cleanup site showing shoring walls, excavations and partial backfilling with imported clean fill.

We remain on schedule to complete our [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) in Larkspur, replacing eight valves on the Force Main system, this October. We have repaired a critical valve under Highway 101 that enables us to shut down part of the pressurized sewer system in case there is an emergency.

The District launched its [Student Scholarship Program](#) in June. The program is providing financial assistance to qualifying students toward their higher education by offering three (3) scholarships of \$1,000 each to 2020 high school graduates to help support their post-high school education. Participants must live within the RVSD service area, be a member of the 2020 high school senior class, and have achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher during this 2019-2020 academic school year to participate. **Completed applications and essays are due to RVSD by Monday, August 31, 2020 to be considered.** [Click here](#) for more information and detailed application instructions.

On June 19, 2019 the Board of Directors adopted [Ordinance No. 101](#), establishing [updated wastewater utility service rates](#) (sewer service charges) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 through FY 2022-23.

Sewer Service Charges were set for FY 2020-21 as Follows:

**Ross Valley Rate Zone**

Single Family Residential .....	\$1,024/EDU*
Single Family w/Accessory Dwelling Unit.....	\$1,536/EDU
Multi-Family.....	\$918/EDU
Commercial Low-Strength .....	\$1,024/EDU
Commercial High-Strength .....	\$2,362/EDU
Commercial Minimum.....	\$769/EDU

**Larkspur Rate Zone**

Single Family Residential and Commercial .....	\$1,445/EDU
Single Family w/Accessory Dwelling Unit.....	\$2,168/EDU
Multi-Family.....	\$1,295/EDU
Commercial Low-Strength .....	\$1,445/EDU
Commercial High-Strength .....	\$3,320/EDU
Commercial Minimum.....	\$1,084/EDU

\*EDU is Equivalent Dwelling Unit - the estimated sewage discharge which represents the typical or average measure of sewage discharge from one dwelling unit.

**District Welcomes New Associate Engineer**

We are pleased to welcome Phil Benedetti as an Associate Engineer here at Ross Valley Sanitary District. He spent the last five years as an Associate

Engineer at the City of Petaluma, working on the wastewater system. Prior to that, Phil worked as a laboratory analyst, construction worker and agricultural researcher. He has a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from UC Santa Cruz and a masters in civil engineering from University of Nevada-Reno.



**Safety is our Top Priority.** Our fully-trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state and federal safety and quality protocols for managing our sewer system. Their daily goal is to ensure our collection system, pumping equipment, and District services continue to run smoothly. Additional information to be aware of includes:

- **Access to our public lobby and other facilities remains closed to the public and all non-essential visitors until further notice.** We continue to issue permits (payments by check only), schedule essential inspection appointments, and process grant and loan applications electronically via [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org), Monday through Friday. Call 415-259-2949 for assistance.
- **Please remember to only flush toilet paper.** "Flushable" wipes (which are not biodegradable), paper towels, rags and shop towels do not break down. They clog your home's pipes and contribute to clogs and overflows in the entire public sewer system, effecting health and safety of the entire community and environment. View our series of informational videos on our website [Sustainability page](#).
- **If you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow, leaking pipe or smell or see sewage on the ground, please contact us immediately for 24-hour response at 415-259-2949.**

During these challenging times please know we are happy to assist you with figuring out any challenges related to the sewer system. Call us at 415-259-2949 or email us at [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). Thank you!

*Steve Moore, General Manager*

### **New Online Permitting Process**

*By Felicia Newhouse, Assistant General Manager*

We are excited to announce that RVSD officially has a new Permit Application Form. Prior to permit issuance, we now require that this application is submitted electronically to District staff. There are two forms, one is specifically for remodel projects. Both of the fillable forms are available on our [website](#). Completed forms can be emailed directly to [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org).

Our new permitting process is now completely electronic (other than payment: checks are dropped in the mail or our mailbox) and eliminates excess paper. This new digital process helps to minimize risk and contact for both the public and our staff. Contractors no longer need to keep a physical copy of the permit on-site and can send permit records to homeowners via email with ease. Homeowners can also save these records digitally which is valuable because these signed off records can serve for up to 20 years' compliance for a property.



District customers have already given positive feedback on this new system saying they love the efficiency.

As a reminder, we have had quite a few additional changes recently, including:

- We recently published [updated 2020 Standard Specifications and Drawings](#).
- Go to the following link to see our [fees increase effective July 1, 2020](#).
- We remain closed to the public until further notice. We continue to issue permits (payments by check only), schedule essential inspection appointments, and process grant and loan applications electronically.



We experienced a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) due to wipes. Other sewer agencies have seen an uptick in wipes-caused overflows, but this is our first since the pandemic began.

On Saturday, July 25, we responded to an overflowing manhole on Mitchell Ave. in Fairfax. Fortunately, raw sewage did not reach the storm drain or surface waters this time.

The picture above shows the manhole and wipes that were removed from a partial blockage that caused wastewater to overflow onto the street. This SSO was caused by residents flushing wipes, paper towels and other non-degradable items down the toilet.

**Please remember to ALWAYS put wipes, paper towels and similar products in the trash, not the toilet.**

[Click here](#) to see videos on how to properly dispose of expired and/or unused medications, Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), and more! Refer to the links below to learn more about what to do with "flushable" wipes and similar items.

- [California Association of Sanitation Agencies](#) (CASA) website.
- [Avoid Fatbergs!](#) Don't Flush Wipes Due to Virus, California Says

- [California Issues Warning](#) about Disinfecting Wipes
- [California Water Board](#) Do NOT Flush Wipes News Advisory
- [Disinfecting Wipes Being Flushed Down Toilets](#) Causing Major Pipe Problems

### Important Reminders:

[Click here](#) to review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that explain sewer overflows and what to do.

**If you see or experience a public sewer emergency, call the RVSD Emergency Line 24/7 at 415-259-2949.** Common reasons to call include a manhole overflow, leaking pipe, odors or visible sewage on the ground. Our emergency crews are available 365 days of the year, 24 hours a day, seven days per week!

**Before you hire a plumbing contractor,** [click here](#) to 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.

All of this information is found online [here](#), or by clicking "EMERGENCY" on our website [homepage](#).

**Our ongoing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects continue during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order as these are essential infrastructure upgrades.**

Sewer line repair and rehabilitation projects help protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows. You can view [upcoming projects being planned and going out to bid](#) as well as recently completed projects throughout our service area.

Visit our [Capital Improvement Program](#) (CIP) web page for the latest project information and updates for each of the projects listed below:

- **[Force Main Appurtenances Project](#)** (Larkspur), replacing eight valves on the Force Main system - Construction began on July 6 and is anticipated to be complete by the end of October.
- **[Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#)** (Kentfield - between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Makin Grade) to increase capacity and prevent sanitary sewer overflows. Construction began in July and is anticipated to be complete by the end of October.
- **Larkspur Pump Station 14 Improvements and South Eliseo Pump Stations 24 & 25 generator replacements** (Larkspur) - Projects are currently in the design phase.
- **Large Diameter Gravity Sewer Project** (Lower Shady Lane/Poplar Ave) is completing lateral connections that were added to the original scope of work to the new sewer located in Bolinas Road. Work was completed in June 2020 in time for the paving that the town of San Anselmo is now conducting.
- **[Larkspur Landing Cleanup Project](#)** - Cleanup activities resumed in June and are anticipated to be complete in August.

[COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) measures were adopted by the District in April 2020 and are updated as needed in response to local and state mandates. These measures are in place and will be adhered to throughout construction on these projects, as well as in our daily operations and maintenance practices.

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found at the links provided below:

- [Marin County Health and Human Services](#) - FAQ for COVID-19
- [The Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) and Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration \(OSHA\)](#) - COVID-19 Guidance for Water/Wastewater Systems

Want to receive timely construction updates? [Click here](#) to select the project you want updates for or call us at 415-259-2949.



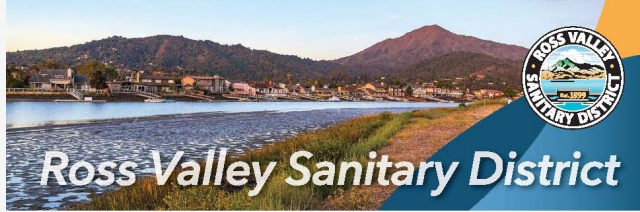
Due to current COVID-19 conditions, **members of the public can attend RVSD Regular Board Meetings from their computer, tablet or smartphone.**

Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM.

**The RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:00 PM.**

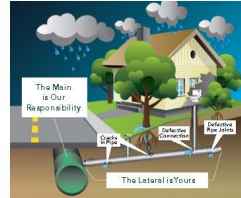
[Click here](#) for updated meeting access information 24 hours before the meeting. [Check the agenda posting here](#) 72 hours before each meeting for open session time.

**Want an alert when the next Board meeting agenda is available?** Please write to our [Clerk of the Board](#) to request to be included in upcoming agenda alerts.



Updating your sewer lateral  
through the RVSD  
**Lateral Replacement Grant Program**  
is easier than ever!

**More than**  
**\$4.8 million**  
in grants have been  
awarded to homeowners  
who replaced their  
laterals since 2009. **\$600,000**  
in grant funding is available for FY 20/21!



**Learn more** at [www.RVSD.org/LRGP](http://www.RVSD.org/LRGP)

[www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org) • 415-259-2949

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