

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin - January 2021

Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) 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 email us at info@rvsd.org. Visit us online at www.RVSD.org for more information.

We are in the new year with the first major storm of the season bringing welcome rain as the month of January ends. Additional COVID-19 vaccines are being approved as distribution ramps up, bringing promise of brighter days for us all. Our staff remain dedicated to ensuring the essential daily operation and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations, while observing appropriate physical distance requirements, using sanitizer and continuing to wear protective masks in 2021.

Planning is underway for 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects that include improvements at Larkspur Pump Station 14 and generator replacements planned at South Eliseo Pump Stations 24 & 25 (Larkspur). Gravity sewer improvements being planned/made around the District include upgrading a section of trunk line on Butterfield Road, between Arroyo Avenue and Kenrick Drive, upsizing and straightening a sewer in Fawn Drive in Sleepy Hollow, and the replacement of sewers in the Sequoia Park area of San Anselmo, in South Eliseo Drive near Bon Air Road, and in the Rancheria/Evergreen area of Kent Woodlands.



We are also planning to remove an abandoned trunk sewer from the streambed of Ross Creek near Shady Lane. (Photo to left)

Originally installed 100 years ago, the area will be restored for steelhead migration by creating a natural riffle in the streambed waters once removed.

As our public process of discussing Larkspur Landing property disposition continues, a third Informational Presentation was held on Wednesday, January 27, discussing how the state's Surplus Lands Act affects the property. The second Informational Presentation, focusing on Current Land Use Entitlements and the Larkspur General Plan update was given on December 3. The first public Informational Presentation occurred on September 30, 2020 and focused on potential Transaction Structures (i.e., lease, sale, or joint venture development).

Meeting materials and videos of all three public presentations are posted on the [Larkspur Landing webpage](#) along with information going back to the late 1990s.

We encourage our ratepayers to track and participate in this discussion as the Board weighs alternatives, and we will keep you informed about additional opportunities to provide input.

Safety Continues as a Top Priority

Our fully trained staff are equipped to comply with local, State and Federal safety and quality protocols for managing the RVSD sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. Every day, their work ensures our interconnected wastewater collection system, pumping equipment, and essential District services continue to run smoothly. Additional reminders to be aware of include:

- **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, Monday through Friday. Call 415-259-2949 for assistance.
- **If you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow or leaking pipe, or you smell or see sewage on the ground, please contact us immediately for 24-hour response at 415-259-2949.**



We are preparing information to update our customers about easement access and will soon launch an easements page on our website. Updated information will also be provided through this monthly bulletin and on Nextdoor.

Please know we are always happy to assist you with answering any questions related to the sewer system. With all that is going on we want you to have peace of mind that you can count on your community sewer system to safely and reliably convey the waters from your sinks, showers, washing machines, dishwashers, bathtubs and toilets. If you have any questions or observations of concern, don't hesitate to give us a call at 415-259-2949 or email us at info@rvsd.org. Thank you!

Steve Moore, General Manager



Help prevent sewer backups:

- **NO wipes** in the pipes! Flush **ONLY** toilet paper.
- Keep hazardous waste, pesticides & medications out of drains.
- Keep fats, oil & grease out of your drain.
- Regularly inspect & maintain your sewer pipes.

Please remain mindful throughout 2021 to avoid actions that cause sewer overflows!

[Click here](#) for information on how to properly dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) throughout the year! [Click here](#) to review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) explaining sewer overflows and what to do to prevent them.

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 public sewer system, affecting health and safety of the entire community and environment. Please take a look at our series of informational videos available for the entire family to learn from on the RVSD [Sustainability webpage](#).

Remember to ALWAYS put wipes, paper towels and similar products in the trash, not the toilet. ONLY toilet paper and human waste are flushable.

You can also [click here](#) to see videos on how to properly dispose of wipes, expired and/or unused medications, Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), and more! The links below provide more information 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 per year, 24 hours per 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 can be viewed online [here](#) or by clicking the "EMERGENCY" icon on our website [homepage](#).

Work continues in 2021 to deliver ongoing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order. These infrastructure upgrades help maintain the region's interconnected sewer system as we continue to provide cost-effective wastewater collection service that protects 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 information and updates about upcoming projects in 2021:

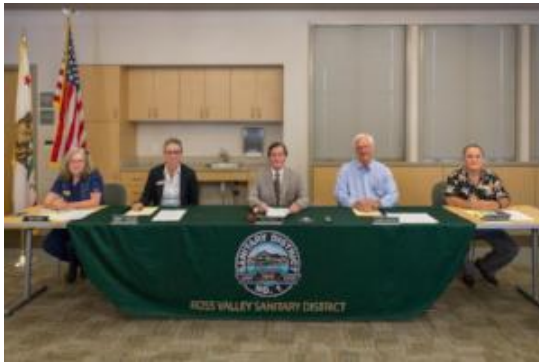
1. **Larkspur Pump Station 14 Improvements and South Eliseo Pump Stations 24 & 25 generator replacements** (Larkspur) – Project is currently in the design phase, estimated to go out to bid in April 2021 and be constructed in the summer.
2. **Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements** – Installation of the final of three sections of replacement trunk line is scheduled for construction between June 15 and August 15, 2021. This project will go out to bid in March and is funded by the State Water Board's State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program, which is federally funded.
3. **FY 20/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements**– Projects are currently in the design phase, estimated to go out to bid in April or May 2021 and be constructed in the summer and fall. These sewers are located mostly in Sequoia Park, South Eliseo Drive, and the Rancheria/Evergreen area of Kent Woodlands.
4. **Ross Creek Sewer Removal Project**– Project has been designed based on a geomorphic analysis to ensure streambed stability, and is in the permitting phase, with a goal of construction during the dry weather months this summer.

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

[COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) measures first adopted by the District in April 2020 and updated in November 2020 continue to be updated as needed in response to local and State mandates. These measures remain in place and are adhered to throughout construction on the District's 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 \(CDC\)](#) - COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions



Due to current COVID-19 conditions, 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 the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM.

The RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 5:00 PM via GoToMeeting.



[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.

Click here to visit
RVSD.org