

125 Years of Service

Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

July 2024



Scenic View of the Larkspur Ferry Terminal

As we approach the end of July, the District remains steadfast in our mission to deliver exceptional service to Marin County. This month's bulletin celebrates our recent achievements, including the completion of the Woodland Road Capital Improvement Project and the receipt of an award for excellence in financial reporting. It also provides routine updates to keep our community informed. July also marks Flush Smart Month, dedicated to promoting responsible flushing practices and preserving our wastewater systems. Join us in raising awareness and taking steps towards a cleaner, healthier environment for all. Learn more by reading below.

Please note that we have moved into our new headquarters located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. As always, RVSD public lobby office hours are open 7:30 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our dedicated staff is here to assist you via phone, email or in person.

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.***

Accomplishments



GFOA "Triple Crown" Designation

RVSD Receives Award for Popular Annual Financial Report Two Years in a Row

We are thrilled to announce that we've been honored with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) Award for the second consecutive year. This award recognizes excellence in creating accessible and informative financial reports that effectively communicate our financial information.

Since 2010, the District has annually prepared various documents summarizing our financial information in readily understandable formats, earning consistent recognition and awards from the GFOA in financial reporting.

Most recently, our Fiscal Year 2024 Budget achieved recognition, resulting in the District earning the GFOA "Triple Crown" designation. The "Triple Crown" designation is awarded to government entities that excel in financial reporting by meeting specific criteria for various financial reports.

Receiving the PAFR Award underscores our commitment to transparency and accountability in financial reporting. By consistently producing high-quality annual financial reports that are clear and understandable, we strive to provide valuable information to our stakeholders and community members.

We are proud to continue our tradition of excellence in financial reporting and transparency, making complex financial information accessible and comprehensible to all. To learn more, visit our website [here](#).

Enhancing Infrastructure Visibility: The Importance of Staking

More than 30% of our community's public sewer system runs through easements on private property. To ensure visibility of our infrastructure within these easements, RVSD staff utilize fiberglass stakes to mark manholes and nodes, ensuring accessibility even under challenging conditions such as during nighttime or in difficult terrain.

Recently, a homeowner with a public sewer easement on their property installed a pool, significantly altering the landscape. Unfortunately, the ground settled over and covered our node, burying it approximately 8 inches deep. Fortunately, the stake we had previously installed was preserved and guided our staff directly to the location, facilitating quick rediscovery.

The stake proved invaluable in locating the buried node and played a crucial role in efficiently restoring access to our system. This incident marks one of three lost nodes found and reestablished within the last month. Locating these nodes has been a top priority for the District, as it ensures system access for all tasks including emergency response situations such as spills.

Property owners can assist in maintaining clear public easements by refraining from moving or covering stakes they encounter. Additionally, please ensure your contractors contact USA North 811 to mark public utilities before starting any digging or construction projects.



Stake Marking Location of Lost Node in Larkspur

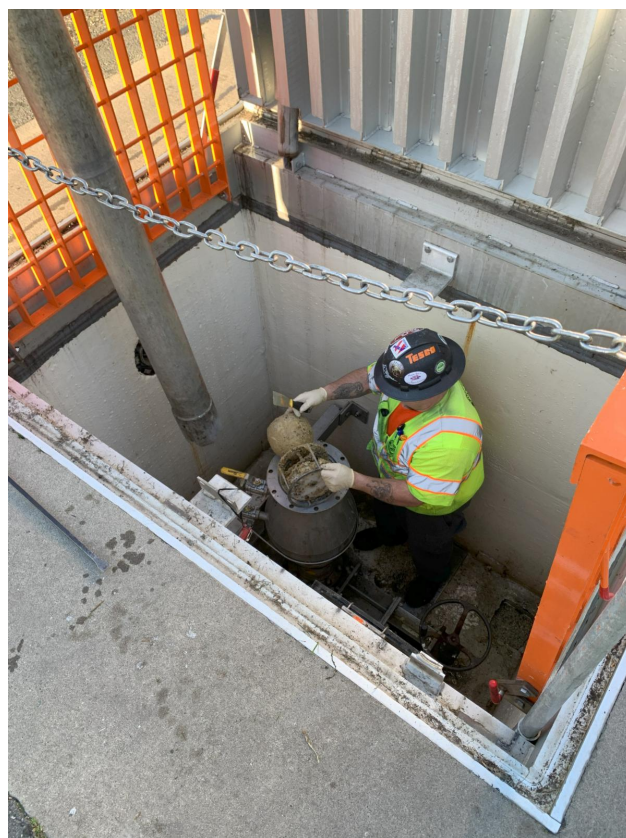
Preventative Maintenance – Cleaning Air Relief Valves

Our staff recently completed crucial preventative maintenance on all 7 large force main Air Relief Valves (ARVs). These valves play a vital role in our infrastructure by allowing the escape of air and gases from force mains, which helps to prevent pressure build-up and potential damage to the system.

During this essential but less-than-pleasant maintenance, staff isolated the ARVs by closing adjacent valves. Isolation ensures that personnel can work on the valves without disrupting the entire system's functionality, allowing for safe cleaning and inspection of each valve.

Staff meticulously removed debris such as grease and grit, which can impair valve performance. This debris typically originates from natural elements like sediment, pipes prone to corrosion, human activities such as improper disposal of materials, environmental factors such as organic debris during storms, and residual waste from wastewater systems.

During routine maintenance, it's crucial to remove these contaminants to prevent them from affecting the performance and efficiency of the valves and other system components. After thorough testing, all units were returned to service, ensuring they operate efficiently and effectively. This work is essential for maintaining the reliability and safety of our wastewater management system, safeguarding infrastructure, and supporting community well-being. We extend our appreciation to our diligent staff for their exceptional work.



Staff Cleaning Debris from ARV

Utilizing Recycled Water: A Commitment to Sustainability

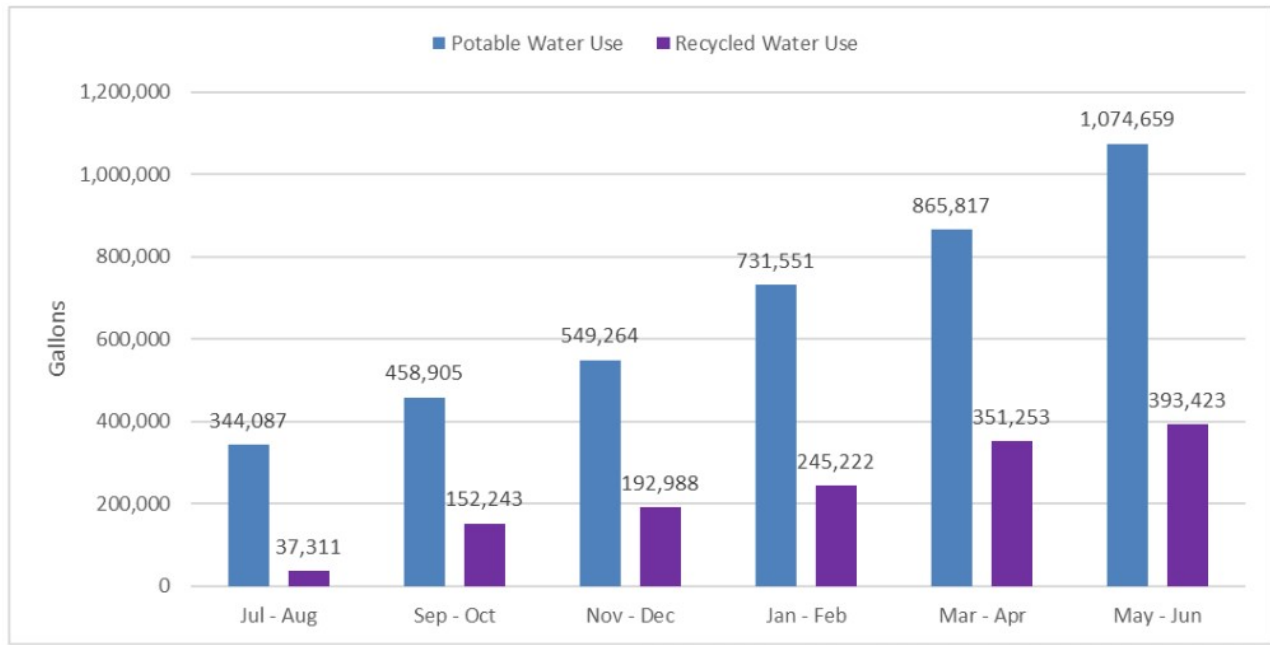
In our commitment to sustainability, the District utilizes recycled water from CMSA Truck Fill Stations whenever feasible. This process includes transporting recycled water from fill stations, refilling trucks, and utilizing the water for

various operational activities.

Recycled water undergoes a rigorous treatment process to ensure it meets strict safety and quality standards, making it a clean and reliable alternative to potable water. In this previous fiscal year, the District used 393,423 gallons of recycled water for sewer cleaning (see graph).

Every gallon of recycled water used directly translates into a gallon of potable water saved. By using recycled water, we conserve potable water which is crucial for human consumption and essential needs like health and safety, while also supporting environmental sustainability such as maintaining fish and wildlife habitats in the Lagunitas Creek and Russian River watersheds.

Our commitment to using recycled water whenever feasible reflects our dedication to responsible resource management and the protection of natural ecosystems for future generations.



FY 2023/2024 Cumulative Potable and Recycled Water Use Graph

Flush Smart Month

July is Flush Smart Month which began in 2021 after California enacted legislation requiring clear labeling on packaging for diaper wipes, cleaning wipes, and cosmetic wipes. This initiative aims to raise awareness about responsible flushing practices amidst growing concerns over their impact on public wastewater systems and household plumbing. The law requires a prominent "Do Not Flush" symbol on packaging to educate consumers on proper disposal methods.

Studies indicate that 98% of clogs in wastewater treatment equipment result from non-flushable items like wipes and paper towels, costing over \$47 million annually in repairs nationwide. Repairing clogged plumbing due to flushed wipes averages around \$300 to \$450 for homeowners, with potential costs exceeding \$15,000 for extensive damage.

To address this issue, organizations like The Responsible Flushing Alliance (RFA) aim to reinforce the message that wipes, and similar materials belong in the trash, NOT the toilet. RFA offers free educational resources like children's storybooks, a "toilet crimes" toolkit, and more available on their website [here](#).

By adopting proper disposal practices, consumers can help preserve wastewater systems and avoid costly repairs. Let's make informed choices to ensure healthier homes, communities, and environments. Join us in promoting



Look for the "Don't Flush Wipes" Symbol on Product Packaging

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

FY 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

This capital project is progressing smoothly and remains on schedule with minimal disruptions thus far. All work in San Anselmo is complete, and most work in the Town of Fairfax is finished, with only punch list items remaining. Work has now shifted to Greenbrae, where we are addressing areas on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Corte Comoda, with plans to proceed to Almenar Drive next.

The project includes two areas in Greenbrae that had significant sewer backups into residences in October 2021 due to root intrusion and structural and capacity issues. This work will occur this summer while school is not in session.

The primary goal of this rehabilitation is to mitigate the risk of sanitary sewer spills and backups. It includes rectifying defects that could cause spills and sealing leaks to reduce inflow and infiltration during wet weather.

Visit the project [webpage](#) for more information and updates. Click [here](#) to learn more about RVSD access to public utility easements on private property for essential routine maintenance and repairs.



Replacing Old Sewer Main in Fairfax

Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

Work is ongoing at Lift Stations 31 and 32, and we are in the final stages of completing work on the two force mains located at Riviera Circle. Electrical work is scheduled to commence this month.

LS20 is in Larkspur Landing next to East Sir Francis Drake Blvd, and near the northbound 101 on-ramp. LS31 and LS32 are on Riviera Circle at Via La Brisa and Corte Del Bayo, respectively, in the Larkspur Marina neighborhood.

The project will convert the lift stations to submersible pump configurations, saving maintenance and energy costs. The project also includes replacing the two small force mains for the LS31 and LS32 lift stations new electrical control panels, communications equipment, and flow meters will improve the reliability of the lift stations and allow for faster response times to issues at each

station.

Visit the project [webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Construction of Flow Meter Vault

Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

We are pleased to announce that corrective work on Woodland Road has been successfully completed, marking the conclusion of the overall project.

RVSD's 2021 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update identified sewer creek crossings in the Kent Woodlands area as the highest priority for upgrading, based on a District-wide risk assessment.

Replacing and rehabilitating these sewers was essential due to their heightened vulnerability to natural forces associated with storm waters, thereby significantly reducing the risk of contamination to Tamalpais Creek and potential damage to the public sewer.

As part of the project, several exposed sewers within the waterway were removed, and the public sewer on various sections of Woodland Road was replaced.

Visit the project [webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Contractor Leaving Tamalpais Creek

Please 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.

Sincerely,



Steve Moore, General Manager

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.

Public Meetings

The Ross Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors conducts monthly public meetings. The public is invited to attend these in-person meetings, held at our new Board Assembly Room:

Ross Valley Sanitary District
1111 Andersen Drive
San Rafael, 94901

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. For more information, please click [here](#) or contact the District's Board Clerk at 415-259-2949 or clerk@rvsd.org.

**The next RVSD Regular Board Meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday, August 21, 2024.**


[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 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.



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.

[Learn More](#)[Home](#)[Our Projects](#)[Public Education](#)[Contact Us](#)

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.

New Address

1111 Andersen Dr
San Rafael, CA 94901

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