



125 Years of Service

# Ross Valley Sanitary District

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

June 2024



*Corte Madera Creek with a beautiful view of Mount Tamalpais.*

As we wrap up the month of June, RVSD remains committed to achieving significant milestones and continuing our mission of excellence in service to Marin County. This month's bulletin highlights our recent accomplishments, provides important updates, and includes essential notifications to keep our community informed.

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

### Remote Pump Monitoring Reveals Opportunity for Improving Energy Efficiency

Staff at Pump Station 15 in Kentfield have significantly enhanced operational efficiencies by addressing issues identified through SCADA data. SCADA, which stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, consists of real-time monitoring and control information crucial for overseeing operational processes such as pump performance and system integrity.

During routine monitoring, prolonged run times for pump no. 5, a smaller dry weather pump, were detected. Further investigation revealed that the impeller clearance was out of specification. In response, our team promptly adjusted the pump rotating assembly to restore optimal performance.

This proactive approach not only enhances the pump's performance but also aligns with our Business Plan

objective of "Review Energy Use at Pump Stations and Identify Opportunities for Efficiency". By maintaining real-time, remote oversight through SCADA, we ensure operational integrity and support our sustainability goals.

These efforts highlight our commitment to operational excellence and resource efficiency, driving continual improvement across our infrastructure. Such initiatives are vital as we strive to optimize performance while minimizing environmental impact.



*Pump No. 5 from Pump Station 15 in Kentfield.*

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## **New Vehicle Enables Large Diameter Pipe Cleaning**

Sewer pipe cleaning is crucial for clearing blockages, removing grease, maintaining capacity, and preparing for repairs. Specialized trucks with high-pressure water hoses and vacuums play a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of the District's sewer system.

Last year, the RVSD Board approved the purchase of a new Vac-Con combination truck to replace an aging unit frequently out of service. Recently it efficiently cleaned several larger 10-inch lines on Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Greenbrae, handling high flow and heavy debris with its 12-yard debris tank. This improvement significantly reduced the need for dewatering and water tank refilling trips.

Previously, cleaning large pipes with heavy flow was extremely time-consuming due to smaller tank capacity, necessitating multiple trips for dewatering and refilling at CMSA. The introduction of the new unit has markedly enhanced operational efficiencies across all divisions, benefiting various tasks throughout the District's service area.

This month, staff utilized the new vehicle during an early morning shift to tackle large-diameter trunk lines in a high-traffic area of San Anselmo that requires substantial traffic control. Coordination with local restaurants facilitated access to sewer system nodes, ensuring smooth progress. By using the large new combo unit and an accompanying Ramjet hydrojetter truck, staff completed the work quickly and efficiently without disrupting morning traffic flow.

These initiatives highlight our commitment to optimizing service delivery while minimizing inconvenience and ensuring the reliability and efficiency of our sewer



*Staff cleaning 10-inch lines on Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Greenbrae.*



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## Roots Where?

Have you recently received a letter from RVSD about a failing private lateral connection? These letters are part of our proactive approach to preventing public and private sewer spills. During routine closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspections of the public sewer, CCTV footage sometimes reveals broken private connections or roots protruding into the public main, as shown in the photo.

This month our staff identified eight defective lateral connections. Upon discovering issues like roots and failed connections, RVSD staff promptly reach out to residents and send a notice letter along with steps for remedying the issue. Property owners are encouraged to contact the District for information and assistance.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining their sewer lateral from their home to the connection at the sewer main, including the connection. If your lateral has roots, it's essential to have a licensed plumbing contractor contact RVSD before removal to ensure proper debris capture and to prevent spills.

For failing connections, hire a plumbing contractor to conduct a video inspection to assess the condition and address issues. Inform them that you've received a "Notice of Defective Lateral" from RVSD. Your contractor will then advise you on the recommended work.

RVSD offers funding for lateral replacements. Properties that have received an official "Notice of Defective Lateral" from RVSD may qualify for \$2,500.

For more information on our funding programs, visit our website [here](#).



*Roots in Private Lateral Connection.*

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## Did You Know?

Over 30% of the public sewer system in our community runs through public sewer utility easements on private property. These easements can sometimes be tricky to access, and obstruction is not uncommon.

These easements play a vital role in ensuring the proper functioning of our wastewater infrastructure. They allow authorized personnel access to specific areas of private property where essential sewer lines, manholes, and other infrastructure are located. By allowing RVSD staff access to these easements, property owners contribute to the collective effort to safeguard public health and protect the environment.

Understanding the significance of these easements is crucial for residents and businesses. Obstructing or encroaching upon them can hinder vital maintenance activities and compromise the integrity of the sewer system. As stewards of our community's wastewater infrastructure, we greatly appreciate the cooperation and support of property owners in upholding the integrity of these easements, ensuring the continued reliability of the



*Fence Built on Manhole.*

sewer system.

For more information on Sewer Utility Easements, including an interactive parcel search map and a video about Utility Easements, please visit our webpage on the District website [here](#).

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## Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

### FY 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

This capital project is going very smoothly and on schedule with minimal disruptions thus far. All work in San Anselmo is completed. We have completed work in the Town of Fairfax on Berry Trail, Coree Lane, and along public easements near Bolinas Road and from Fawn Ridge to Wood Lane. Additionally, all work on and near Taylor Drive is finished. Work is wrapping up on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at Marinda and moving to Mitchell Drive in Fairfax.

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 100-year-old sewer line and laterals in Fairfax.*

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### Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

Work is underway at Lift Stations 31 and 32. Additionally, pipe bursting operations on the two force mains have commenced on Riviera Circle.

LS20 is in Larkspur Landing next to East Sir Francis Drake Blvd, and near the northbound 101 on-ramp. LS31 and LS32 are located 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





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

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## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Corrective work on Woodland Road is anticipated to be completed in early July. The overall project is expected to conclude in late summer, pending the completion of corrective measures by the contractor.

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



*Tamalpais Creek.*

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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**

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## Stay Connected

**nextdoor**

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.

**Linked in**

We are also on LinkedIn! Follow our page [here](#) to stay up to date on current job announcements and other news about the District.

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## 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](mailto:clerk@rvsd.org).

**The next RVSD Regular Board Meeting is scheduled  
for Wednesday, July 17, 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.

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## 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.

Review FAQs

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## 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

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## Phone & Email

415-259-2949 (24/7)  
Email: [info@rvsd.org](mailto: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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Ross Valley Sanitary District | 1111 Andersen Drive | San Rafael, CA 94901 US

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