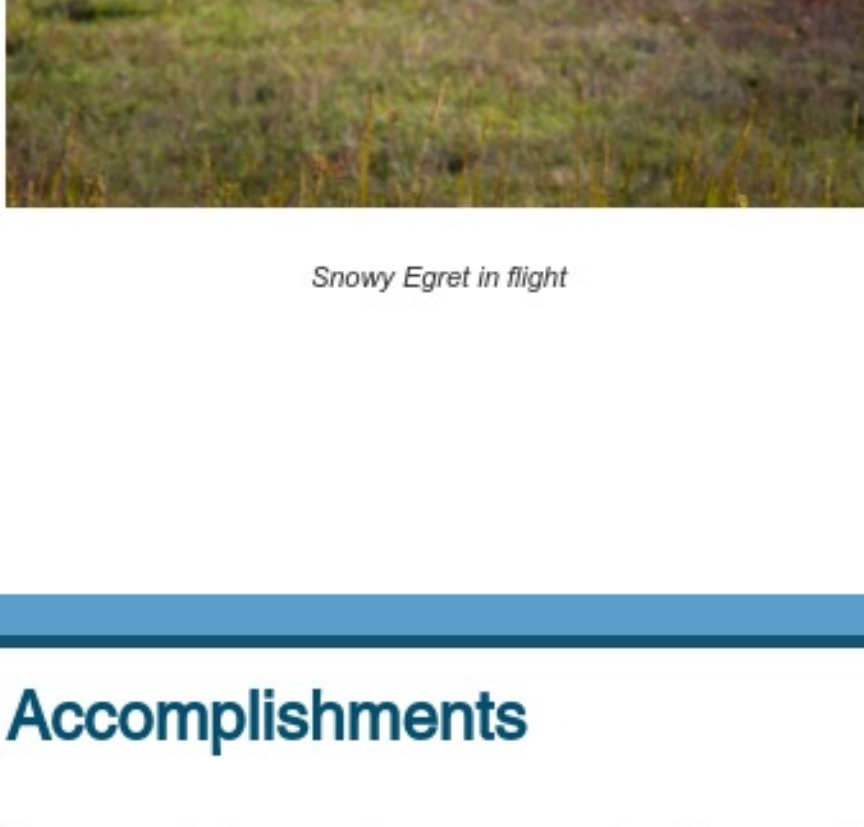


General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

June 2025



Snowy Egret in flight

As we wrap up the month of June, RVSD continues to demonstrate its commitment to proactive maintenance, community engagement, and infrastructure resilience. From overcoming easement access challenges, to discovering unexpected items in our system, and updating SOPs—this month's highlights reflect our dedication to transparency, reliability, and service excellence.

Our headquarters are located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. Our regular public lobby office hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to Noon and 1p.m. to 4 p.m. Our dedicated staff are here to assist you via phone, email or in person.

We are available for emergency calls 24/7. 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 at 415-259-2949 as soon as possible.** Every minute counts to help avoid a public health or environmental hazard. Thank you!

Accomplishments

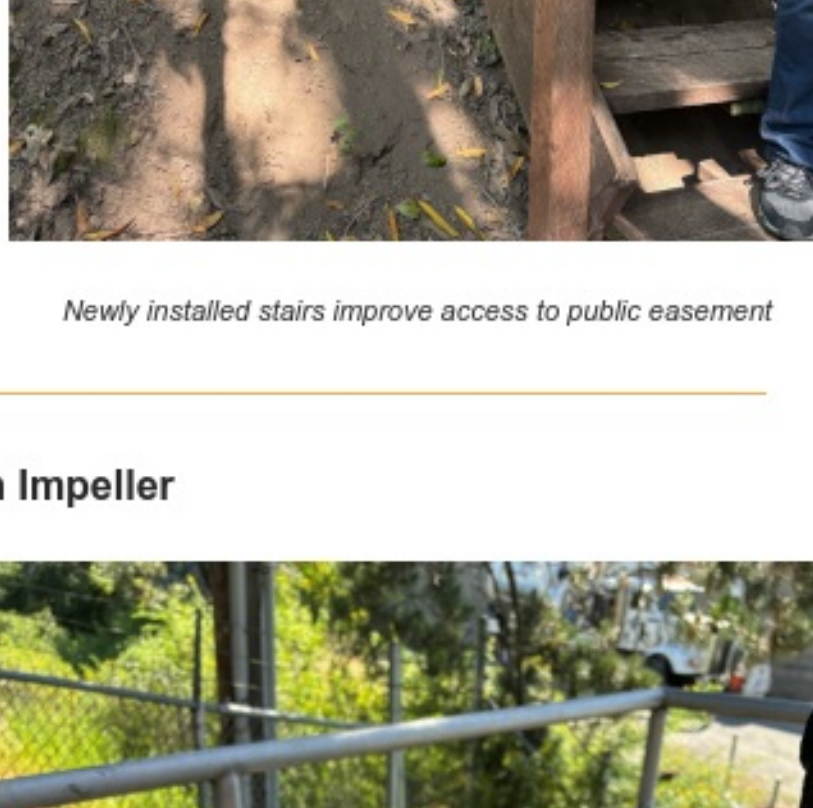
Easement Access Improvements: Overcoming Infrastructure Challenges

This month, our operations staff collaborated with a homeowner to gain access to a difficult to reach public easement near the end of Tamalpais Road in Fairfax. The photo above shows the newly installed stairs, which will significantly improve crew access to this steep and challenging terrain.

More than 30% of RVSD's infrastructure is located on private property within public easements, which creates ongoing challenges for access and maintenance. To address this, RVSD launched a targeted Easement Initiative in 2021, aimed at improving access to infrastructure located in these areas. This multi-phase effort began with identifying key easements and notifying property owners about the importance of maintaining clear access for maintenance crews.

We also coordinate with the local fire department to clear overgrowth and obstructed areas, enhancing both emergency response and maintenance efficiency. Additionally, RVSD works closely with contractors and local agencies to ensure large-scale construction projects are well-coordinated and do not encroach on critical easement zones.

To learn more about easements or to find out if you have a public easement on your property and provide the District with your contact information, visit our website [here](#).



Newly installed stairs improve access to public easement

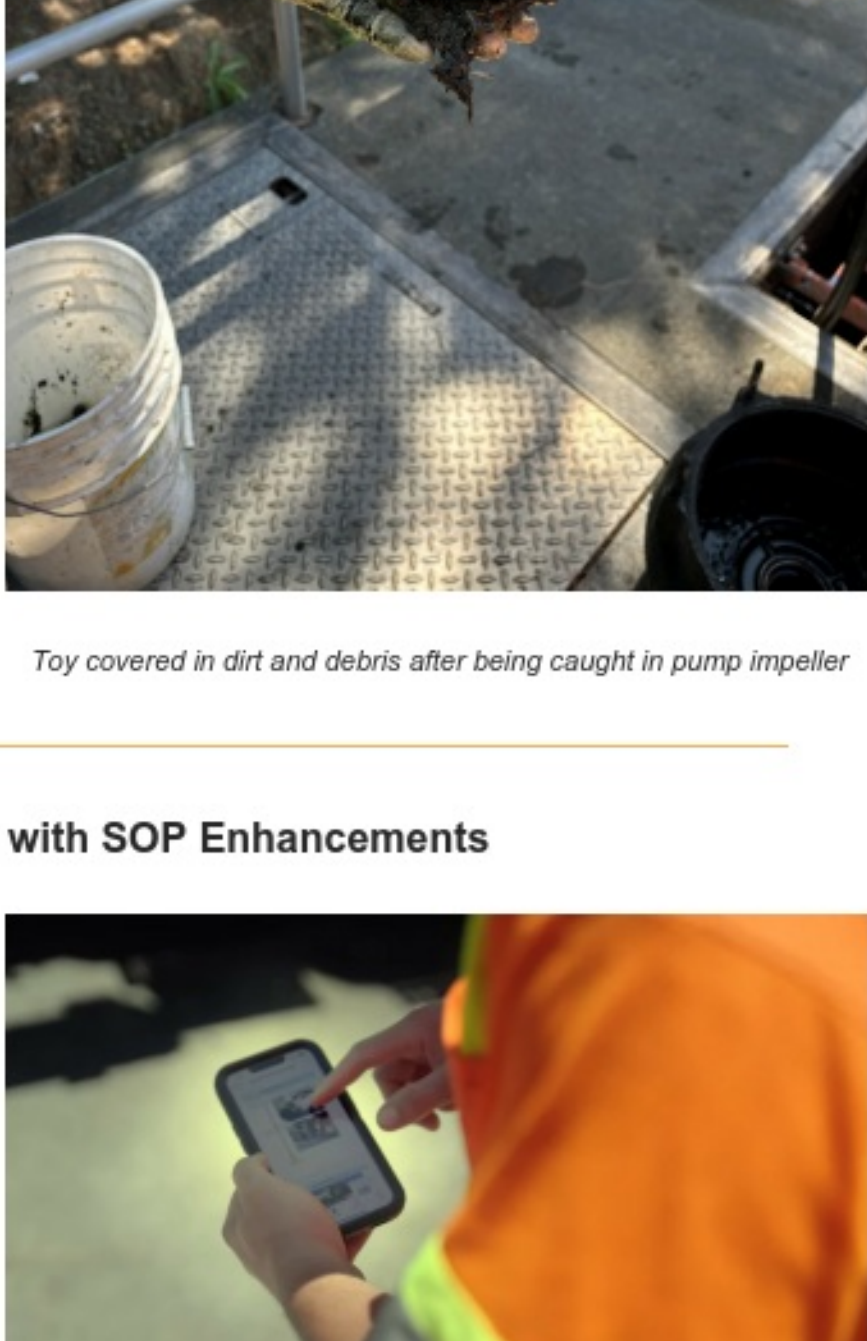
Pump Stations Crew Finds Small Toy in Impeller

During routine preventive maintenance at Pump Station #1 in Greenbrae, staff discovered that pump #1 was experiencing extended run times. Upon inspection, they found "Mater"—a small rubber toy from the movie Cars—lodged in the impeller, restricting the pump's capacity.

It's likely the toy made its way into the system through a tub drain or was flushed down the toilet — something curious children occasionally do. Parents are encouraged to be mindful during bath time by blocking drains when necessary and keeping toys away from toilets to help prevent similar issues.

This incident highlights the value of our staff's quick action and proactive maintenance, which caught the issue before it could lead to more serious damage or costly repairs. It also underscores the importance of public education and prevention—reinforcing the message to *Trash it, Don't Flush it* to help prevent blockages and keep our wastewater system running smoothly.

Want to help your kids learn about sewer systems? Download our new printable coloring book, *The Pipe Patrol*, available now on our website [here](#).



Toy covered in dirt and debris after being caught in pump impeller

Strengthening Operational Excellence with SOP Enhancements

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, staff recently updated the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for CB03, our new Large Vac-Con combination unit. This revision enhances guidance on hydro excavation operations and overall control utilization, ensuring field crews have the tools they need to perform at their best.

Developed through strong internal collaboration, the updated SOP includes detailed step-by-step instructions and clear visuals to support proper equipment operation. The result is a comprehensive, user-friendly resource that provides all District field staff with accurate, easily accessible, and up-to-date operational procedures.

SOPs remain a cornerstone of our Competency Based Training (CBT) program, which received the 2023 CASA Organizational Excellence Award. This recognition reflects our dedication to training, safety, and operational consistency—and underscores the importance of well-documented procedures in the hands of a skilled, well-trained team.

We also had the opportunity to showcase CB03 at the recent Touch-a-Truck event benefitting the Larkspur Library, where we demonstrated its impressive capabilities by drawing water and latex gloves from a kiddie pool.



Staff accessing SOP via mobile device out in the field.

Education and Information

Do You Have a Septic System?

If you notice strong odors around your yard this summer, your septic system could be the source.

The summer heat can amplify odors because warmer temperatures accelerate the breakdown of organic material in wastewater, releasing gases like hydrogen sulfide that cause that "rotten egg" smell. Heat also causes these gases to rise, making odors more noticeable.

Summer can also bring heavier household water use, which may overload your septic system. If you're experiencing unpleasant smells, slow drains, or backups, these may be signs that your system needs maintenance.

If you are thinking about switching from septic to sewer, RVSD offers low-interest loans up to \$50,000 to help homeowners connect to the public sewer system. These fixed interest rate loans have a ten-year term and are repaid as an assessment on your property tax bill.

Upgrading improves property value, protects local waterways, and eliminates the hassle of septic system upkeep.

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



Septic system illustration

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

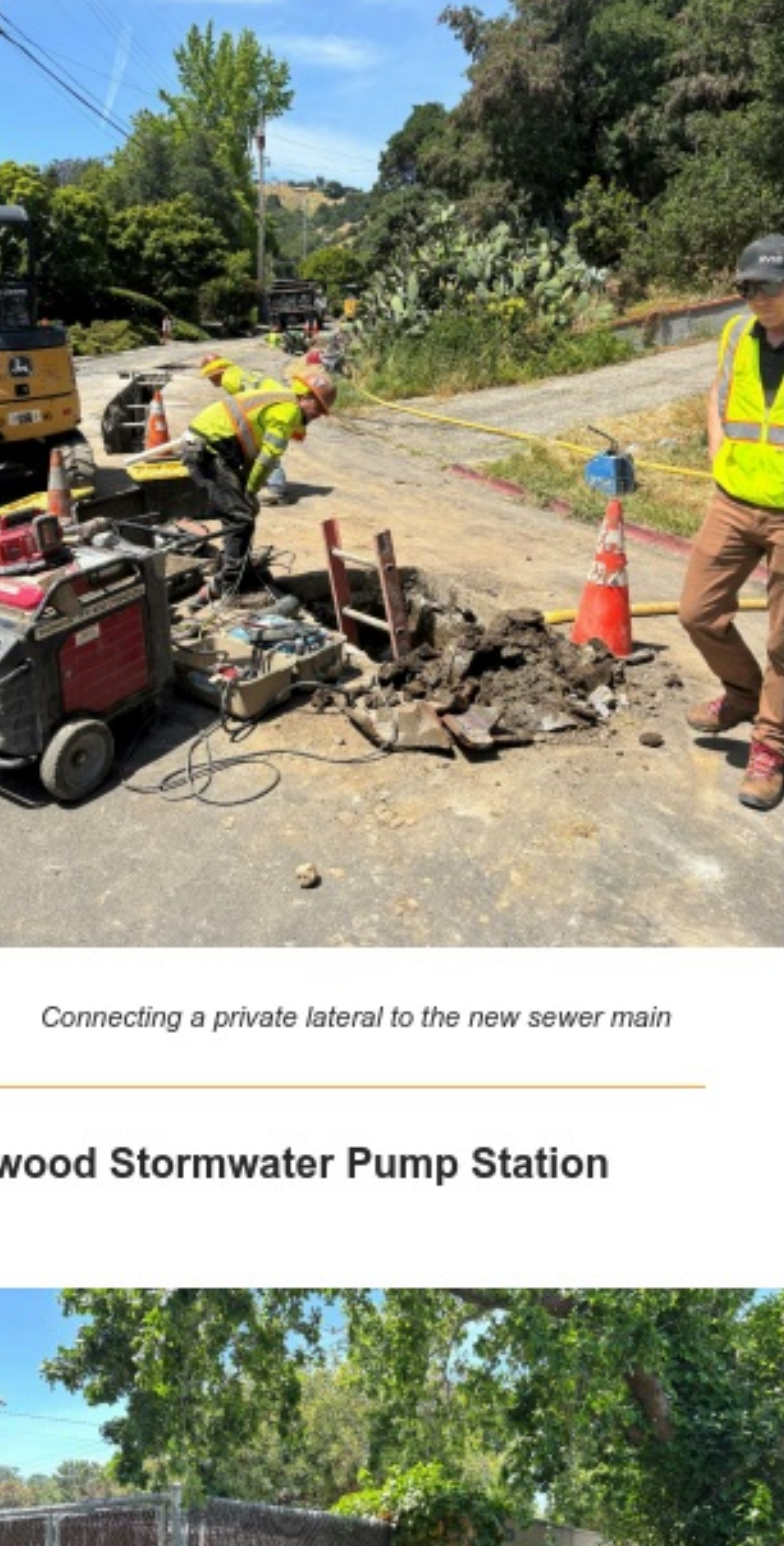
Palm-Mann-Cypress Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

The contract for the Palm-Mann-Cypress Gravity Sewer Improvements Project was awarded to Glosage Engineering, Inc., the low bidder, for a total of \$3,544,115. The project will rehabilitate approximately 1.9 miles of gravity sanitary sewer pipelines in Kentfield, using pipe bursting as the primary construction method, with open-trench construction where pipe bursting is not feasible. These improvements will increase system reliability, reduce maintenance needs, and minimize the risk of sewer spills.

The project was fast-tracked to align with the County of Marin's scheduled pavement rehabilitation on several local streets in 2025. Design began in October 2024, and construction is expected to start in mid-July 2025.

This project is a key component of the District's ongoing efforts to upgrade infrastructure and reduce capacity constraints, as outlined in the 2021 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP). It will also help alleviate downstream capacity issues and further mitigate I&I impacts in the area.

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



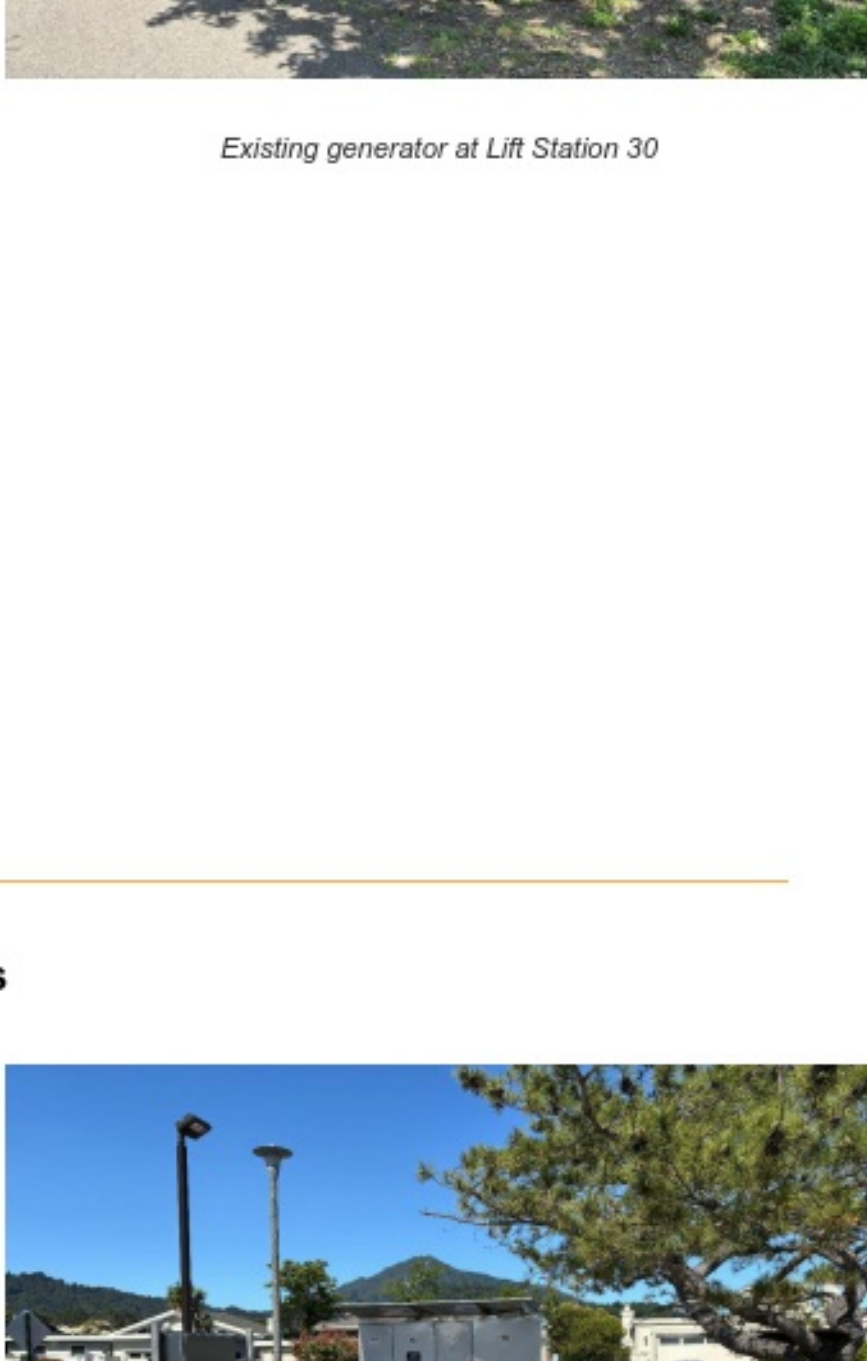
Pipe installation project

FY 24/25 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

Construction is nearing completion in San Anselmo and is expected to be finished within the next week. The next phase of work is scheduled to begin on Stadium Way in Kentfield.

This project will replace approximately 2.8 miles (14,042 linear feet) of aging gravity sewer pipelines in San Anselmo, Fairfax, and Kentfield. Work will involve open-cut installation and pipe bursting, as well as the installation of new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and 33 sewer manholes. The project is expected to improve sewer infrastructure and address critical maintenance needs in high-risk areas, reducing infiltration and inflow (I&I) of groundwater and storm water into the system. Notably, the awarded bid came in 26% below the engineer's estimate, making it a cost-effective solution for our community.

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



Connecting a private lateral to the new sewer main

Lift Station 30 Heather Gardens & Heatherwood Stormwater Pump Station Rehabilitation Project

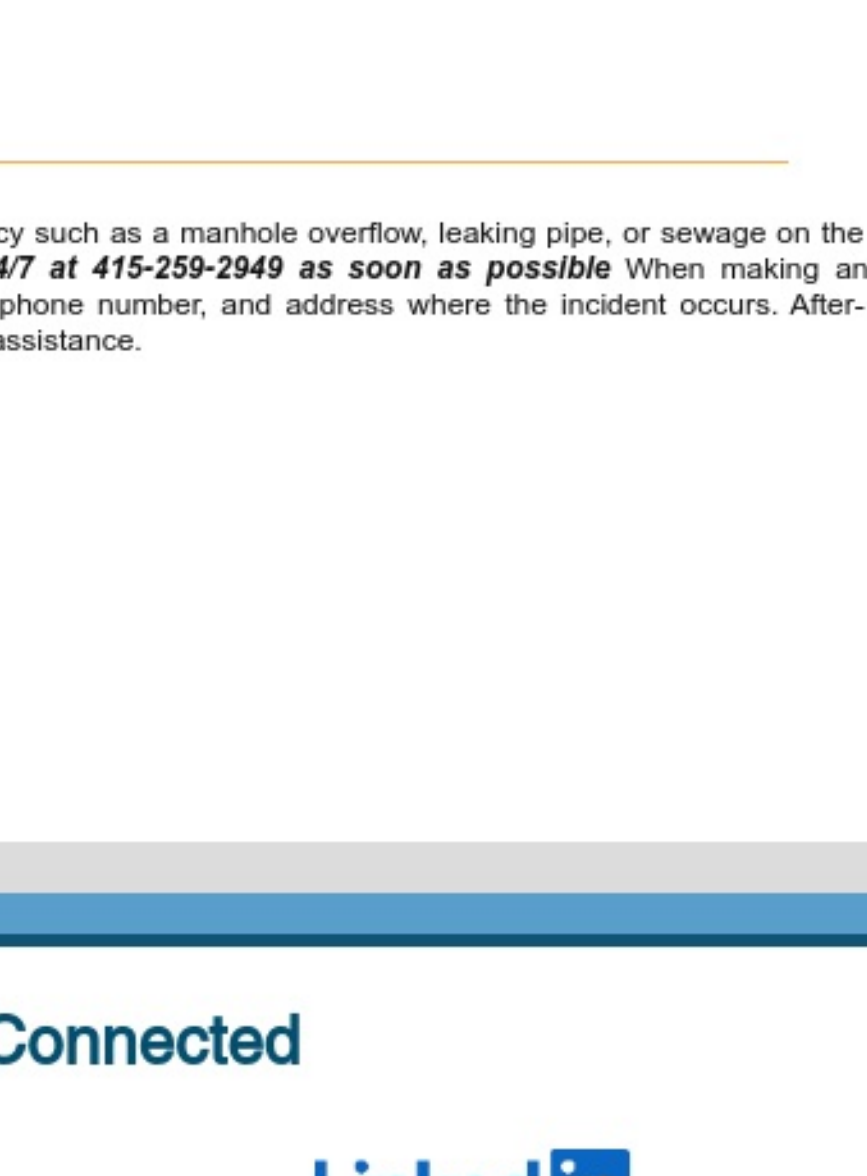
Construction is now underway, with excavation work having officially begun. Crews are currently preparing the site for upcoming improvements. Installation of precast wet wells for the sanitary and storm systems should occur in mid-July.

In collaboration with the City of Larkspur, this project will upgrade and enhance the infrastructure serving the Heather Gardens Lift Station (LS30) and the City of Larkspur's adjacent Heatherwood Stormwater Pump Station. The project involves demolishing the existing combined facilities and constructing separate pumping stations for sanitary sewer and stormwater management. This separation will prevent the occasional inflow of storm water into the sanitary sewer that has occurred at this location over the years.

Key improvements include elevating critical electrical equipment above the FEMA 100-year flood elevation and installing new concrete wet wells, valve vaults, submersible pumps, backup power generators and upgraded electrical controls and alarms that meet both District and City standards. The project will also address the issue of stormwater inflow into the sanitary sewer wet well, described above. This project adapts to climate change by elevating system components above projected sea level rise elevations.

Currently, sandbags are used as a temporary measure to minimize inflow during large storm events. By separating the two functions and upgrading the equipment, this project will also reduce the risk of sanitary sewer spills, improve system reliability, and enhance overall efficiency.

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



Existing generator at Lift Station 30

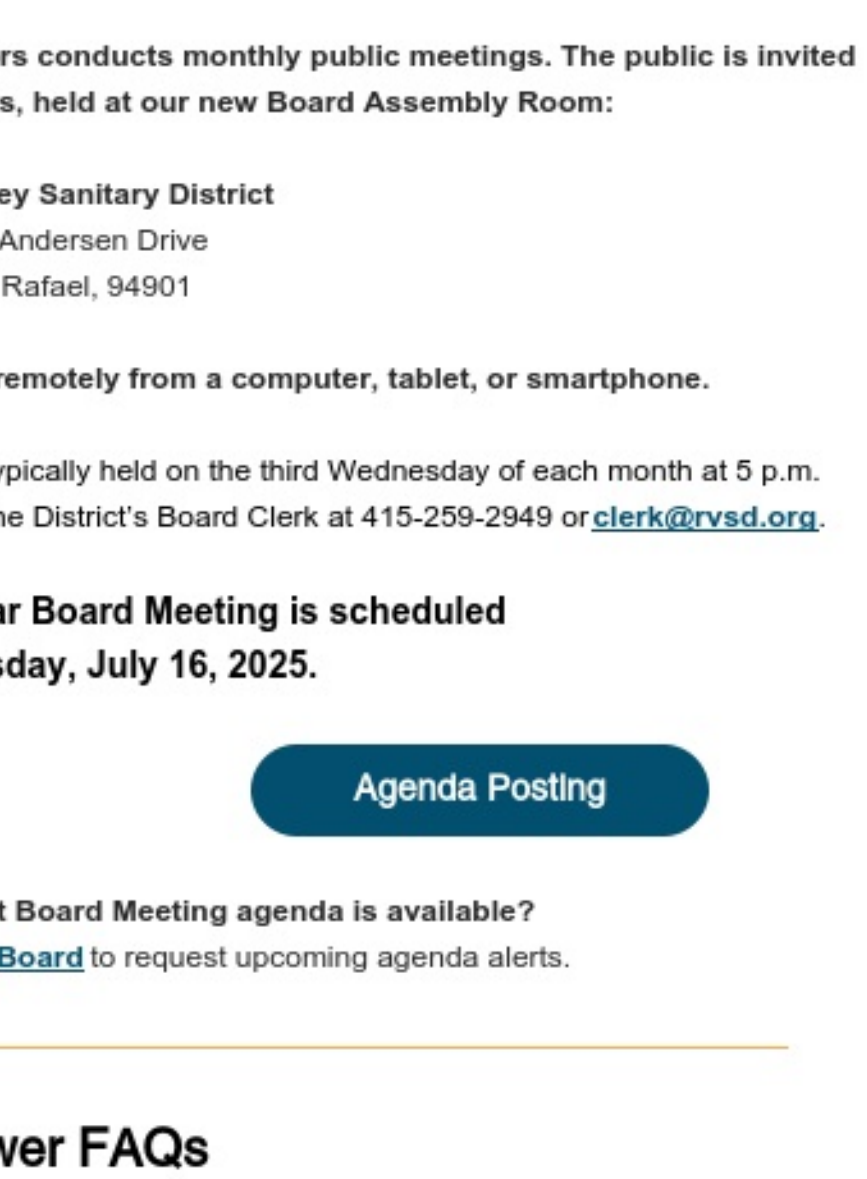
Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

LS20 is currently under construction. LS31 is complete. Progress continues steadily at LS32, with landscaping completed and final completion anticipated next month, pending energization from PG&E.

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

The project will convert the lift stations to submersible pump configurations, saving maintenance and energy costs. The project also includes rehabilitating the two small force mains for the LS31 and LS32 lift stations (completed), 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.



Rehabilitated Lift Station 32

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

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.

LinkedIn

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, July 16, 2025.

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.

Review FAQs

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 (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

Ross Valley Sanitary District | 1111 Andersen Drive | San Rafael, CA 94901 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!