

125 Years of Service

# Ross Valley Sanitary District

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

May 2024



*125th Anniversary & RVSD Headquarters Consolidation  
Ribbon Cutting*

Another month at RVSD has been marked by significant milestones and achievements. The highlight was undoubtedly the May 28th celebration of RVSD's 125th year of continual service in Marin County and the inauguration of our headquarters at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael signifying a new chapter in our commitment to serving our community with excellence.

Below are details on our recent accomplishments, important updates, and essential notifications.

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

### Celebrating 125 Years of Service

District staff, alongside local community members, consultants, and agency officials, came together to commemorate 125 years of organizational history and celebrate our newly remodeled facility.

RVSD was established in 1899 as one of the first sanitary districts in California. Many organizational milestones were celebrated by the event speakers and placed in historical context for their innovation. RVSD has continued its reputation for excellence in the new era of collection systems regulation, achieving two statewide awards in the last two years.

The day was bright with sunshine and guests enjoyed the eclectic tunes of the Force Main Brass Quintet. Event speakers shared insightful remarks, underscoring the importance of the District's achievements and its

commitment to continuous improvement.

The festivities culminated in the symbolic cutting of the ribbon, symbolizing the completion of the RVSD headquarters project, and marking the beginning of a new era of continued achievements in the Ross Valley service area.



*RVSD General Manager, Steve Moore, delivers a speech highlighting RVSD's accomplishments over the years.*

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## What's In Your Backyard?

During routine cleaning in Greenbrae, RVSD staff made a significant discovery in a private backyard easement—a historic manhole node that had remained untouched for quite some time due to its location in a hard-to-access public easement on private property.

The construction of this manhole was notably unconventional, even for its time. Constructed with a cross-stacking of bricks and an unfinished concrete grout, its condition raised concerns about excessive inflow and infiltration (I&I) of storm water and groundwater. Despite the current dry weather, evidence of infiltration was evident, with the bench at the bottom of the manhole showing signs of moisture. It's reasonable to assume that during rainy periods, this manhole resembles a showerhead, allowing a significant amount of infiltration.

The construction style suggests that the manhole is quite old, possibly dating back to the late 1800s to the mid-1900s. Seasoned staff members, with years of experience, were taken aback by its poor condition, speculating that it might have been installed around the inception of our district, which now celebrates 125 years of service.

It's noteworthy to observe the evolution of manhole construction over the years—from the traditional use of brick and mortar or stone in the 19th century to the adoption of modern materials like HDPE.



*Historic manhole found in Greenbrae*

This historic find offers a valuable glimpse into the early infrastructure of our District and underscores the importance of ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure the integrity of our systems.

Furthermore, this discovery highlights the vital role of RVSD staff in accessing public easements on private property to maintain and monitor crucial infrastructure, safeguarding the community and the environment. Visit our website to learn more about public sewer utility easements by clicking [here](#).

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## Kickoff of RVSD Business Breakfasts

RVSD staff hosted four “business breakfasts” to communicate District requirements and specifications to target audiences and partners in our service area. This outreach initiative honors one of our annual business plan commitments to maintain collaborative partner relationships. We invited local plumbing contractors, real estate agents, local public works staff, and local building and planning staff to receive information about our lateral ordinances, grant and loan programs, and our ability to respond to any emergency any time of day.

RVSD’s service area spans five different municipal jurisdictions and these meetings enhanced our coordination with these various local entities as well as local businesses. Because of the success of these events, we plan to have another round of business breakfasts early next year. Stay tuned!



*Cristina Velazquez, Management Analyst, presenting RVSD program information to local plumbing contractors.*

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## RVSD Sewer Rate Changes

Every five years, RVSD conducts a comprehensive rate study to thoroughly assess fees, ensuring they accurately reflect the evolving needs of our community. This month our Board of Directors adopted a new five-year rate schedule, to support effective and efficient delivery of our essential services. The rate increases average 4% in the first year, and subsequent year increases are 4%, 4%, 3.8% and 3.5% respectively for all categories.

RVSD collects a semi-annual sewer service charge on each property connected to our sewer system. This charge, vital for maintaining and improving our infrastructure, is integrated into Marin County property tax bills. While it may appear as a single charge, it supports two critical organizations: Ross Valley Sanitary District, responsible for collecting and transporting wastewater to treatment facilities, and Central Marin Sanitation Agency, which treats and purifies wastewater before safely returning it to the environment.

It's important to recognize that these rates directly contribute to safeguarding public health, protecting the environment, and maintaining the quality of life in our community. For more detailed information on our rates and how they support our mission, click [here](#).

Annual Sewer Service Charges with EDU factor	Effective July 1 2024	Effective July 1 2025	Effective July 1 2026	Effective July 1 2027	Effective July 1 2028
<b>Ross Valley Rate Zone</b>					
Single Family	\$1,238	\$1,288	\$1,340	\$1,391	\$1,440
Single Family with ADU	\$1,857	\$1,932	\$2,010	\$2,087	\$2,160
Multi-Family	\$1,114	\$1,159	\$1,206	\$1,252	\$1,296
Commercial Low-Strength	\$1,238	\$1,288	\$1,340	\$1,391	\$1,440
Commercial High-Strength	\$2,897	\$3,014	\$3,136	\$3,255	\$3,370
Commercial Minimum*	\$966	\$1,005	\$1,045	\$1,085	\$1,123
<b>Larkspur Rate Zone</b>					
Single Family	\$1,773	\$1,844	\$1,918	\$1,991	\$2,061
Single Family with ADU	\$2,659	\$2,766	\$2,877	\$2,987	\$3,092
Multi-Family	\$1,596	\$1,660	\$1,726	\$1,792	\$1,855
Commercial Low-Strength	\$1,773	\$1,844	\$1,918	\$1,991	\$2,061
Commercial High-Strength	\$4,149	\$4,315	\$4,488	\$4,659	\$4,823
Commercial Minimum*	\$1,383	\$1,438	\$1,496	\$1,553	\$1,608

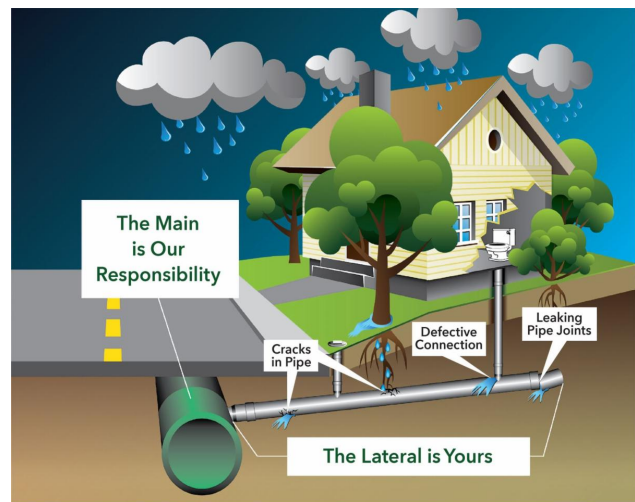
*RVSD's Five-Year Rate Schedule*

## RVSD Permit & Capacity Fee Adjustments

As part of the comprehensive rate study, RVSD's permit and capacity fees are also regularly assessed to accurately reflect the current demands of our community. We're delighted to announce that this year, while some fees did increase due to inflationary factors, several others were decreased due to the District's efficient use of technology and staff resources. For example, capacity charges have increased about 5% mostly because of the investments in the system from our capital program. New sewer connections help pay for these improvements that ratepayers have already funded.

Considering private sewer lateral work? Remember, maintaining and upgrading private sewer laterals is essential for reducing inflow and infiltration, preventing sewer spills, and ultimately improving overall sewer system management. For more information on our permitting, fees, and our updated fee schedule, click [here](#).

RVSD offers funding for sewer lateral replacements. For more information on our funding programs click [here](#).



*Failing Private Sewer Lateral Illustration*

## Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

### FY 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

Construction along Idalia Road, Redwood Road, Yolanda Drive, and Saunders Avenue has been successfully completed. This work concludes all work in the Town of San Anselmo.

Additionally, work along Berry Trail and Coree Lane in the Town of Fairfax has been completed. Currently, the contractor is working in the Town of Fairfax along public easements near Bolinas Road and a public easement from Fawn Ridge to Wood Lane.

The project scope is to rehabilitate approximately 15,384 linear feet (LF) of sewer main, ranging from 4 to 14 inches in diameter, across San Anselmo, Greenbrae, and Fairfax. The rehabilitation will include the replacement of 642 LF through open-cut and 14,742 LF via pipe bursting. Additionally, the project will install approximately 241 LF of a new 8-inch sewer main in Greenbrae. The project locations are within public rights-of-way or designated easements across private properties.

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.

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.



*Construction crews working on pipe rehabilitation.*

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## Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

Construction at all three locations is expected to begin in mid-June, starting with the pipe bursting of the District's two force mains 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 station.

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



*Pump Station 31*

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## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Work on this project has been delayed until there is a more extended period of dry weather. Paving restoration has been rescheduled to June.

Project completion is expected in late summer pending corrective work being completed by the contractor.

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



*Construction trench holding water*

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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**

## 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.

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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, June 19, 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](#)

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## Contact Us

### Phone & Email

415-259-2949 (24/7)  
Email: [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org)

### Hours

Mon - Fri  
7:30 a.m. - noon

### New Address

1111 Andersen Dr  
San Rafael, CA 94901

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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