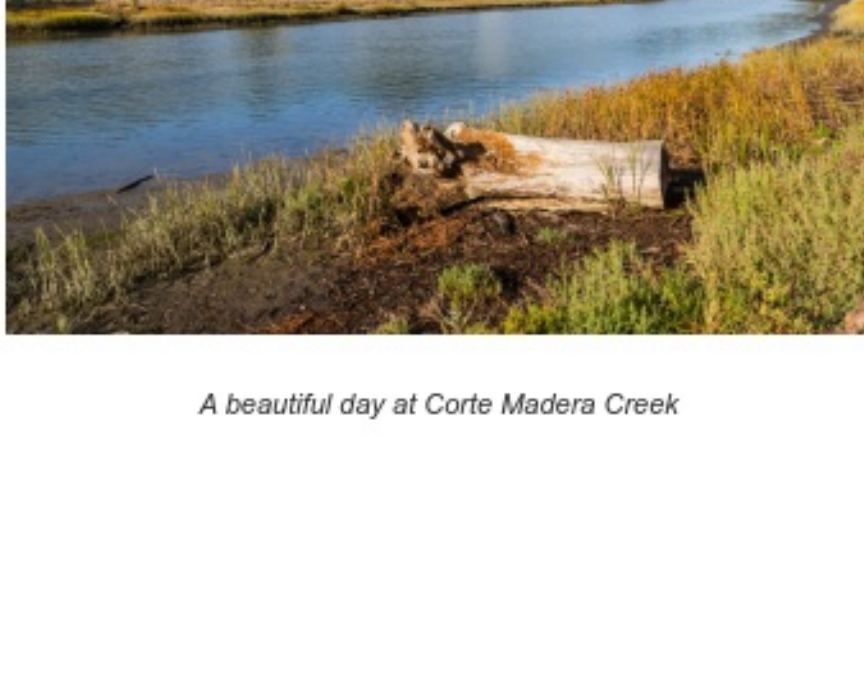


125 Years of Service

Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

May 2025



A beautiful day at Corte Madera Creek

As May comes to a close, RVSD remains committed to proactive maintenance, community outreach, and infrastructure resilience. From preventing sewer spills and engaging with the public to earning the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence, these ongoing efforts reflect our dedication to transparency and maintaining a strong, reliable system that serves the community and keeps our system running efficiently.

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

RVSD Receives Transparency Certificate of Excellence

We're proud to share that Ross Valley Sanitary District has been awarded the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).

This certificate recognizes special districts that go above and beyond in their public engagement, ethical practices, and transparent communication. It represents our ongoing commitment to accountability and open governance.

RVSD first received this award in 2022, and after the certificate's three-year validity period ended, we became eligible to reapply. We're pleased to have successfully met the criteria again, reaffirming our dedication to maintaining open and accessible operations for the community we serve.

We're honored to receive this recognition and will continue working to uphold the highest standards of good governance. The District takes pride in our continued accomplishments. More information about awards we've received can be found [here](#).



RVSD recognized by SDLF

Crews Prevent Two Sewer Spills in Sleepy Hollow

RVSD's line maintenance crew successfully averted two potential sewer spills through vigilant inspections and quick action. During a routine manhole inspection, staff discovered a tree branch had infiltrated the system. This obstruction caused a buildup of rags and paper, significantly restricting flow. Thanks to timely intervention, the blockage was cleared before a spill occurred. This incident highlights the crucial role of regular manhole inspections in maintaining system reliability.

In a separate incident, while cleaning a High Frequency Cleaning (HFC) line, crews removed two three-inch rocks from the sewer line. A follow-up inspection led staff to a private residence where similar rocks were found on the property. Staff walked the site with the residents to check for missing cleanout caps, which can allow foreign objects to enter the system. Although no open cleanouts were found, this incident highlights the importance of continuous system monitoring and community cooperation in protecting our sewer infrastructure.



Staff cleaning sewer lines

RVSD Makes a Big Splash at Touch-A-Truck Event

On May 4, 2025, RVSD proudly participated in the Touch-a-Truck event benefiting the new Larkspur Library. Staff demonstrated the capabilities of our combo truck, including vacuuming water and latex gloves from a pool, to showcase the essential work we do and illustrate the impact of improper flushing on the sewer system.

With prizes, educational materials, and interactive displays, including Star Wars-themed May-the-fourth activities, kids and families enjoyed engaging with RVSD's mission in a fun and informative setting. We also provided child-sized hard hats and safety vests, along with a photo op booth for families to enjoy!

Additionally, we created a new coloring book, *The Pipe Patrol*, designed to teach kids about the work we do. It was distributed at the event and is now available online — download the printable version [here](#).



Staff demonstrating the power of RVSD's combo truck

Education and Information

Latex Gloves Community Outreach

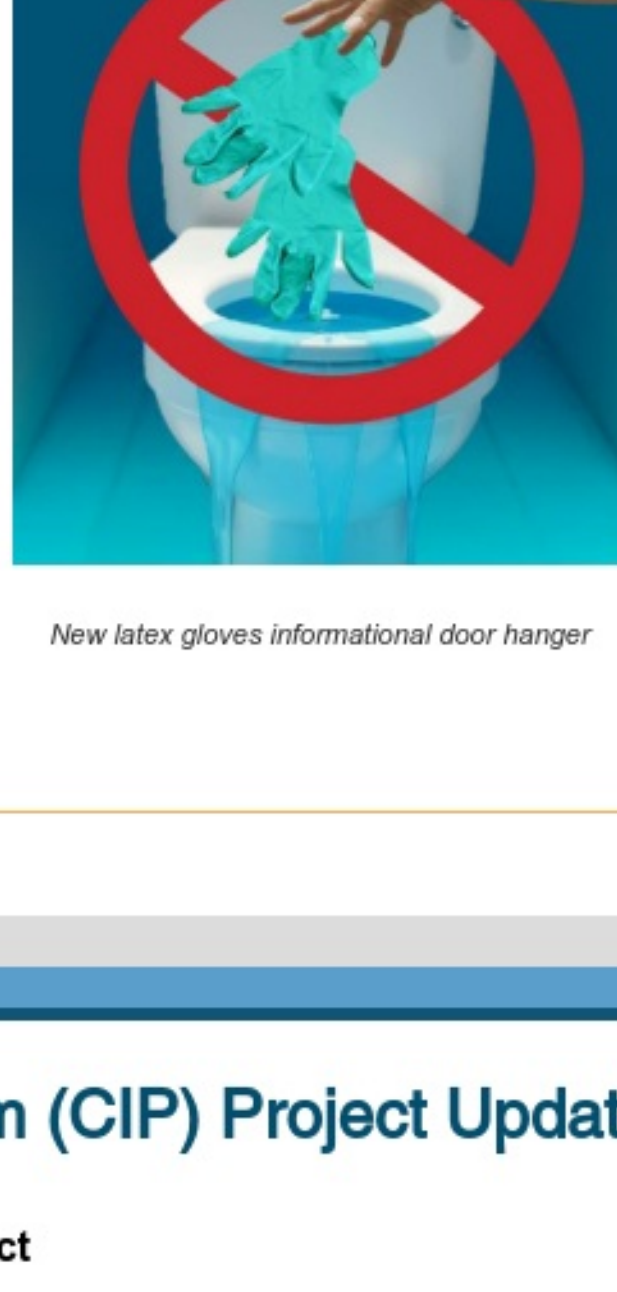
Of all the things that can end up in the sewer system, there's one persistent problem you wouldn't expect: latex gloves. These gloves can cause serious blockages and contribute to costly sewer spills.

To tackle this issue, RVSD continues to educate the community about proper disposal. Last year, we launched a campaign to raise awareness about this issue, including digital advertisements that would reach people's smart phones at work. Most recently, we created door hangers that staff distributed in areas near clinics and commercial businesses, where glove use is common.

Our crews conducted targeted outreach near Bon Air Road and Magnolia Avenue in Larkspur, an area where sewer cleanings have frequently uncovered latex gloves. Staff visited local medical clinics and nearby businesses, distributing door hangers and information about proper waste disposal.

This outreach emphasized the importance of keeping latex gloves out of the sewer system, as they can clog pipes and damage equipment. Business owners responded positively, with many already displaying signage in restrooms encouraging responsible disposal. This education effort is part of RVSD's ongoing strategy in its Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) to reduce blockages through community awareness and proactive communication.

For more information, visit our new webpage dedicated to proper disposal of latex gloves [here](#).



New latex gloves informational door hanger

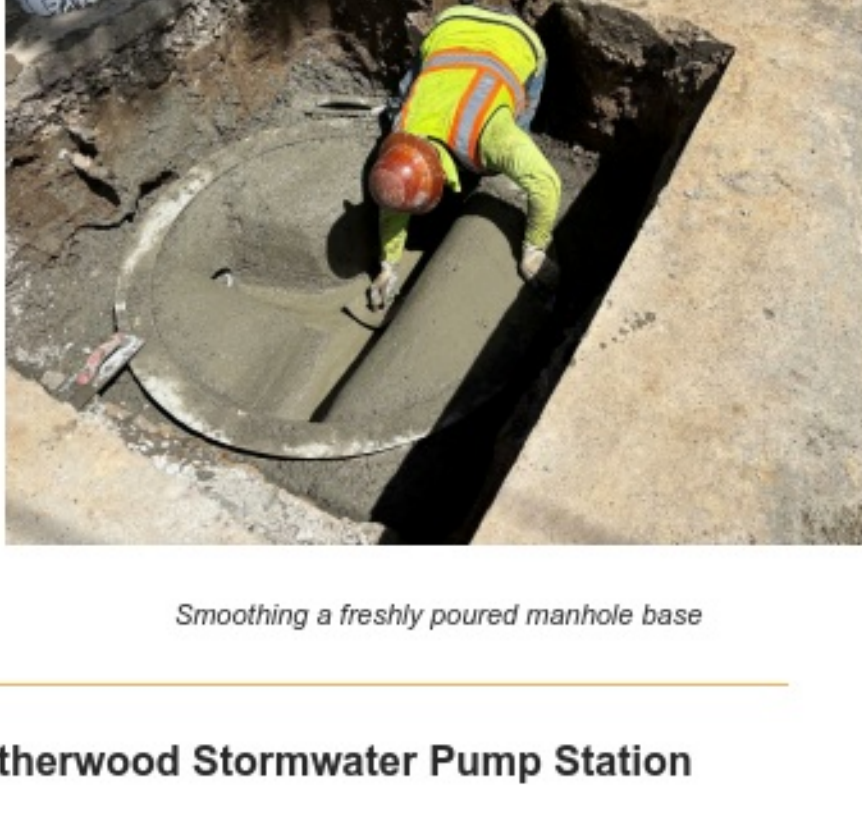
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

FY 24/25 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

Construction is ongoing in San Anselmo near its border with Fairfax, with current work focused on Rutherford Avenue. We expect to wrap up all work in San Anselmo within the next month.

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 removal, pipe bursting, and reaming, 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.



Smoothing a freshly poured manhole base

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

Construction is now underway, with potholing and bypass installation in progress. We are currently awaiting delivery of necessary materials.

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.



Bypass system construction around new wet well

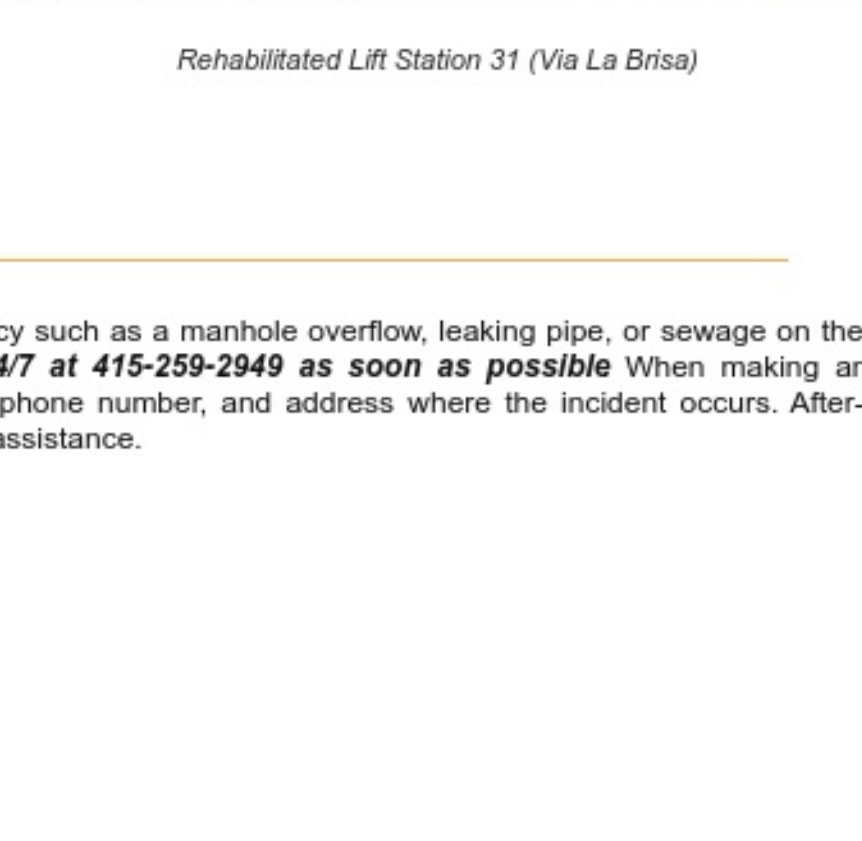
Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

Work is ongoing on underground utilities at LS20. Progress continues steadily at LS31 and LS32, with landscaping completed and final completion anticipated in the coming months, pending action 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 31 (Via La Brisa)

Please remember, if you see a public sewer emergency such as a manhole overflowing, 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, June 18, 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