

125 Years of Service

Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

April 2024



Corte Madera Creek

As we spring out of the month of April, we hope everyone had an enjoyable Earth Day on April 22, celebrating our clean waterways here in the beautiful Ross Valley. In this newsletter, we are pleased to share the achievements of our staff who work hard to maintain our beautiful environment through an efficient and reliable sewer collection system.

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

Getting to the ROOT of the Problem

During routine maintenance in Greenbrae, RVSD staff discovered a large root ball wedged in the middle of a 6-inch sewer main. Upon this discovery, staff promptly dislodged the root ball and removed the debris.

Root debris often originate from residential lateral clearing and cleaning and can lead to sewer spills if left unmanaged.

We work with local plumbing contractors to notify us when they come across blockages in lateral lines so that we may take preventative measures to protect the sewer mains. These cooperative efforts help protect public health and the Ross Valley environment.



Root ball found inside public sewer.

Staff Hard at Work, Repairing “Grade 5” Defects

As you may have seen in your neighborhood, RVSD staff continue to work diligently installing point repairs using the internal pipe patch repair system, with a focus on Grade 5 defects. These defects are the most serious on the scale of 1 to 5 and include “visible voids” indicating significant damage or deterioration in the pipes.

Repairing Grade 5 defects is crucial for preventing sewer spills, maintaining system integrity, and ensuring the efficient operation of the sewer system. Failure to address these defects promptly can result in costly and disruptive issues for both the sewer district and the community it serves.

In March, staff successfully completed sixteen trenchless point repairs in various locations including Larkspur, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Fairfax, San Anselmo, and Ross.



Repair crew hard at work.

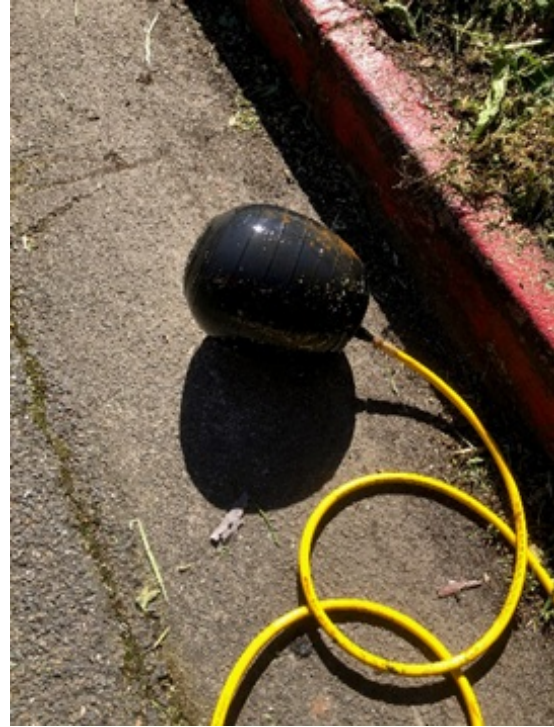
Emergency Response Prevents Sewer Spill

Staff responded to an urgent call for immediate assistance from a District Inspector. A contractor had inadvertently lost their 4-inch inspection plug in the 18-inch sewer main on Sycamore Avenue in San Anselmo. Our team promptly arrived at the site and successfully retrieved the inspection plug from the main. This quick action prevented any potential blockages or spills from occurring within the system.

This incident highlights the importance of teamwork and collaboration among our staff and contractors. We encourage contractors to reach out promptly in similar situations, as swift action can prevent potential problems

and ensure the integrity of our sewer system.

The District has a 24/7 Emergency Response Line for sewer related emergencies. For assistance, please call 415-259-2949.



Inspection Plug found in public sewer.

Outdoor Drainage Fixtures

Did you know that outdoor showers and sinks utilize a sewer lateral to transport wastewater to the sewer main? If you're planning to install an outdoor shower or kitchen sink, you need to first obtain a permit from RVSD, which includes an onsite inspection.

Outdoor drainage fixtures can be a source of Inflow & Infiltration (I&I). When stormwater enters the sewer system through I&I, it can cause sewer spills and backups in your home.

Moreover, this influx overwhelms Central Marin Sanitation Agency's treatment plant, which can lead to the discharge of partially untreated wastewater into the San Francisco Bay.

It is also important to note that noncompliant outdoor fixtures might have an illicit connection to the stormwater system. This can cause pollution by bypassing water treatment and releasing contaminated water directly into the Bay as well.

Help us keep our sewers clean and clear. Don't let rainwater into your sewer system!

Click [here](#) to view more information about Outdoor Drainage Fixtures on the District website.



Non-compliant outdoor shower.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

FY 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

This capital improvement project scope is to rehabilitate approximately 15,384 linear feet (LF) of sewer main, ranging from four 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 new eight-inch sewer main in Greenbrae. The project locations are within public rights-of-way or designated easements across private properties.

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

Construction along Austin Avenue, Melville Avenue, and Vine Avenue has been successfully completed. Additionally, work along Ross Avenue in front of Wade Thomas Elementary School is complete. The contractor is currently working in San Anselmo along Idalia Road, Redwood Road, Yolanda Drive, and Saunders Avenue. Following this work, construction will proceed in the Town of Fairfax.

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 crew working on sewer installation.

Lift Stations 20, 31 & 32 Improvements

The District's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified these three lift stations as the highest priority lift stations for upgrading based on a District-wide risk assessment. Since their configurations are similar, they were combined into one project to take advantage of economies of scale.

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 as they are made of deteriorating ACP pipe, an inferior pipe material used in the 1960's and 1970's that is targeted for replacement by the District throughout the service area.

New electrical control panels, communications equipment, and flow meters will improve reliability of the lift stations and allow for faster response times to issues at each station. Electric and mechanical equipment for this project is scheduled for delivery over the next month.



Pump Station 20

Construction is expected to begin at all three locations in May.

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

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 will begin the first week of May.

Project completion has moved to early summer pending corrective work being completed by the contractor.

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



Sewer pipe in 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

nextdoor

RVSD is on Nextdoor. Subscribe to our page [here](#) as one of the ways you can find out if there will be construction

LinkedIn

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

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, May 22, 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.

[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](#)

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

[Unsubscribe info@rvsd.org](#)

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

Sent by info@rvsd.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!