

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

December 2023



As December brings in the holiday spirit, the RVSD team remains steadfast in ensuring the optimal performance of our wastewater collection system. Amidst the festivities, we brace for winter's rainfall, dedicated to preserving public health and the environment. Read on to uncover this month's updates and initiatives as we navigate the holiday season with our mission at the forefront.

**The District office will be closed on New Year's Day in observance of the holiday.** After the holiday, RVSD will resume regular public lobby office hours from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at our new headquarters located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. As always, our dedicated staff is here to assist you via phone, email or in person with any questions.

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

### SmartCover Alarm Saves the Day

A recent SmartCover alarm played a crucial role in preventing a sewer spill. The SmartCover is located on a manhole lid across from the San Anselmo Fire Station. Upon investigation, staff discovered that the pipe was partially blocked and surcharging, posing a potential risk of a sewer spill into San Anselmo Creek. Thankfully, staff were able to relieve the blockage and prevent a spill. As a result, line maintenance has adjusted the cleaning schedule to clean the pipe more frequently, every six months. This cleaning adjustment will help maintain an unobstructed flow within the system.



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## Emergency Power Training During Planned Power Outage

To avoid major sewer spills, pump stations in the District must operate at all times, including during power outages. Amid a planned PG&E power outage for replacing an electrical transformer, staff needed to supply temporary power to Lift Stations 31-36 (Riviera Circle in Larkspur). The operations and maintenance team took advantage of the situation to offer hands-on training with portable generators to pump station staff. This extensive training encompassed the setup, transfer, and operation of the stations during emergencies. Knowing how to safely supply temporary power is significant for pump stations and on-call staff, especially during unexpected power outages that may occur during a storm.



*Lift Station 32 (Riviera Circle, Larkspur).*

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## Removing Abandoned Lines for a Safer System

RVSD Staff successfully finished two projects that amounted to removing 315 feet of abandoned gravity lines within the District's service area. As one of the oldest sanitary districts in California, staff occasionally come across legacy lines that are no longer in use. To remove the lines, staff seal the pipe in the manhole. Sealing these abandoned lines helps prevent infiltration and debris from entering the system, reducing the likelihood of a potential spill. The two abandoned lines include a 300 ft pipe in Fairfax and a 15 ft pipe in Sleepy Hollow.



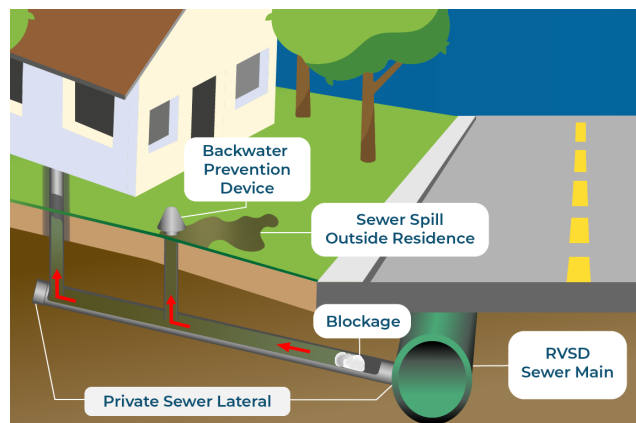
*RVSD staff prepping for repair work.*

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## Backwater Prevention Devices

A backwater prevention device (BPD) is a valve installed on a sewer line cleanout access point. It includes a float-operated valve that opens when the pipe fills with water and seals odors within the pipe. Blockages in the sewer main or a private sewer lateral can cause wastewater to back up toward buildings or nearby manholes. BPDs stop sewage from backing up into buildings, diverting it outside into the landscape.

The District mandates the installation of an appropriate BPD on private sewer laterals if not already in place. Properly installed and maintained, these devices prevent sewer backups in homes or businesses. All BPDs must meet Ross Valley Sanitary District standards and be maintained by property owners to function effectively. For more details, visit the [backwater prevention devices](#)





# Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

## Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Construction continues westward on Woodland Road with ongoing pipe bursting extending past the intersection at Upland Road. The in-creek work is complete, and all easement pipes are installed.

RVSD's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified sewer pipe creek crossings in the Kent Woodlands area as the highest priority for investment based on a District-wide risk assessment. Replacing these sewers significantly reduces the risk of contamination to Tamalpais Creek and potential damage to the sewer main. It is essential to rehabilitate sewers that cross creeks as they have a higher likelihood of failure due to natural forces associated with storm waters, and a higher consequence of failure through more direct spills and contamination. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Contractor installing HDPE plastic manhole in an easement.

## Fiscal Year 23/24 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project

The project is currently open for bidding, with bids opening on January 4, 2024. Detailed plans for the project are available on [BPX Plan Room](#). The project scope is to rehabilitate about 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 new 8-inch sewer main in Greenbrae. Most of 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 sanitary sewer spills caused by either blockages or excessive infiltration and inflow (I&I) of stormwater. It includes rectifying defects that could allow roots and sediment to block the sewer and sealing leaks to reduce inflow and infiltration during wet weather. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



Open manhole surrounded by project team.

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.

Happy New Year,



Steve Moore, General Manager

## Stay Connected



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.



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](mailto:clerk@rvsd.org).

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

## 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.

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### Contact Us

#### Phone & Email

[415-259-2949](tel: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

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

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