


# Ross Valley Sanitary District

## General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

September 2023



**WE ARE MOVING!**

Effective **Monday, December 4, 2023**  
our new location is:

**1111 Andersen Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901**

415-259-2949 (24/7) • [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org) • [www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org)

Summer has come to an end and students are back in school which means rain is soon to come! Last winter, a series of atmospheric rivers filled Marin Municipal Water District reservoirs to capacity. RVSD crews worked hard to maintain system flows and prevent sewer spills during these weather events and are making preparations for the coming wet weather season.

Please note that our move to new RVSD headquarters has shifted to **December 4, 2023**. The new location will be 1111 Andersen Drive – San Rafael, CA 94901. As always, RVSD public lobby office hours are open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our dedicated staff is here to assist you via phone, email or in person.

Please take a moment to review the educational information and videos included in this bulletin, and on our website at [www.rvsd.org](http://www.rvsd.org). 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

### Resolving an Unpermitted Sewer Connection

During the September 20 Board Meeting, the Board

approved a proposal to reimburse Tamalpais Union High School District (TUHSD) for rerouting an unpermitted sewer lateral connection from the RVSD system back to their collection system which discharges to Sanitary District No. 2 of Marin County (SD2). TUHSD does not pay sewer service charges to RVSD for this connection. The primary goal of this reroute project is to reduce staff overtime costs and mitigate the risk of sewer spills on Diane Lane in Larkspur.

During wet weather surveillance in November 2021, RVSD staff identified an unpermitted force main connection into a manhole from a pump station at San Andreas High School, on Diane Lane. This connection posed a significant spill risk as the manhole is only about three feet deep, while a typical manhole depth is six feet or greater. When large storms were expected, field staff were stationed at this location to provide emergency bypass pumping because high water levels triggered alarms on a regular basis. Often these Diane Lane “storm patrols” incurred overtime costs because the storms were after normal business hours.

After collaborative meetings between TUHSD and RVSD, the best course of action was made clear. Disconnect the force main from the RVSD system and reconnect it to the high school’s collection system, upstream of SD2. Given the two-fold benefits of reducing sewer spill risks and lowering overtime expenses, RVSD will reimburse TUHSD 50% of the final project costs, not to exceed \$100,000. These collaborative efforts will maintain a reliable wastewater system, reduce spill risks, and optimize operational staff efficiency.



*Diane Lane manhole with unpermitted Force Main discharge*



*Bypass pumping during a storm*

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## New Line Maintenance Crew Outreach Video

Staff worked with [Ryan McGeary Productions](#) to create a new outreach video that features the District's Line Maintenance Crew. Equipped with top-of-the-line equipment, this crew keeps the sewer system flowing. Each cleanup isn't just a quick clean-and-go, it's a roadmap for future maintenance. Uncover the secrets beneath the surface as this crew walks you through a day of sewer cleaning. Watch the video by clicking the image to the right or clicking [here](#).



*Click the image above to watch the video*

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## Always Be Prepared and Proactive

In a proactive step to uphold our wastewater infrastructure's dependability, our pump stations crew recently conducted preventive maintenance on the District's pump stations Alarm Agent back-up dialer systems. This vital maintenance involved replacing internal backup batteries and testing the alarm system's functionality.

The back-up dial system serves as a secondary alarm mechanism, activated when other communication methods, like radio telemetry, fail. When active, the system relies on phone lines to contact On Call staff for emergency response situations.



*Pump station staff operating a control system*

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## Too Full of Surprises

During CCTV inspections in San Anselmo, our vigilant condition assessment crew uncovered a critical issue—a 10-inch clay pipe clogged with a heavy amount of gravel debris on Center Blvd and Saunders Ave. The manhole in this area was found connecting to an unmapped historic line allowing debris into the system. Swiftly, the condition assessment team coordinated with the maintenance crew to address the problem. This discovery undoubtedly averted a potential spill, illustrating the importance of ongoing system condition assessments.



*CCTV footage of the 10-inch pipe clogged with gravel*

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## Sewer School

Our readers get an A+ for learning how to prevent sewer spills. A sewer spill occurs when a sanitary sewer system releases untreated raw sewage into the environment. Spills can occur for multiple reasons: during a storm when an increased amount of water enters and overloads the sanitary sewer system or when blockages happen, from wipes, sanitary napkins, fats/oils/grease (FOG), floss and other non-degradable items placed in drains.

Explore our [educational videos](#) that explain FOG and how these and non-flushable items can accumulate and block the older, smaller pipes in our community. Please share these educational videos with community members, family and neighbors of all ages so they too can learn how to contribute to the health and safety of our



*Click the image above to watch the video*

## Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

### Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

Construction commenced on September 15 with horizontal directional drilling underneath Tamalpais Creek. Precision Engineering will continue replacing the sewer main west on Woodland Rd.

RVSD's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified sewer creek crossings in the Kent Woodlands area as the highest priority for upgrading 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 it enhances the infrastructure, thereby minimizing the risk of spills and contamination. Visit the [project webpage](#) for more information and updates.



*Precision Engineering installing new 12-inch sanitary sewer main on Woodland Road*

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Moore".

**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.

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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, currently held at:**

**Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA)**  
1301 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, October 18, 2023.**

[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.

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[Sustainability](#)

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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**  
**1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

### Address

**2960 Kerner Blvd**  
**San Rafael, CA 94901**

Ross Valley Sanitary District | 2960 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901

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