

Ross Valley Sanitary District

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

August 2023



August has been another eventful month for the District. Earlier this month we received the 2023 California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Award of Organizational Excellence for our Competency-Based Training (CBT) program. For this statewide award, we competed with all CASA members including Los Angeles County Sanitation Agencies and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Over the past six years, RVSD developed a CBT program that captures institutional knowledge and fosters a consistent, efficient work environment. RVSD is truly honored to receive this award, and we are excited to share our [video](#) that highlights the significance of our CBT program. Continue reading below to discover other exciting accomplishments that took place in August.

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.

Accomplishments

Marin Independent Journal Recognition

The District was recognized in two articles by the Marin Independent Journal this month for the \$100M infrastructure overhaul that has taken place over the past ten years. The articles recognize the Board of Directors for providing the leadership needed to realize this accelerated level of infrastructure improvements. This hard work has led to the District having the lowest recorded number of sewer spills to date. As we celebrate this milestone, we acknowledge the dedication of the District's team and will continue to uphold our mission of providing a high-quality wastewater collection system that has no avoidable sanitary sewer spills.

View the two articles linked below:

- [Ross Valley Sanitary District completes \\$100M system overhaul](#)
- [Editorial: Ross Valley Sanitary deserves our thanks for addressing infrastructure issues](#)

Marin Independent Journal

COMMUNITY INPUT

Ross Valley Sanitary deserves our thanks for addressing infrastructure issues

By: MARIN IJ EDITORIAL BOARD

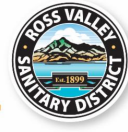
August 12, 2023

"The work has paid off, cutting the number of reported sewage overflows by almost two-thirds and the gallons spilled to a fraction of those experienced in past years."

"The lesson learned is this out-of-sight network of pipes and pumps has to be maintained and repaired."

Original article can be found here:

<https://www.marinij.com/2023/08/12/editorial-ross-valley-sanitary-deserves-our-thanks-for-addressing-infrastructure-issues/>



We Are Moving!

The District is pleased to announce that effective Monday, October 2, 2023, we will be moved to our new facility located at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. This facility fulfills a long-overdue need to consolidate staff and equipment into a single centralized location, underscoring our commitment to 24/7 response, quality customer service and operational efficiencies.

Our contact information will remain the same:

415-259-2949 (24/7)

info@rvsd.org

www.RVSD.org



Map Overview of 1111 Andersen Drive.

Loan Program Funding Updates - Septic-to-Sewer Now Available

On August 16, 2023, the District adopted Ordinance No. 75 amending the framework and guidelines for the Loan Program to include septic-to-sewer conversions. The new ordinance replaced Ordinance No. 74 which assisted ratepayers with the cost of replacing their private sewer laterals but did not offer funding for ratepayers wanting to replace their private septic system with a new connection to the District's sanitary sewer system.

Lateral replacements are eligible for low-interest loans up to \$25,000 and septic-to-sewer conversions are eligible for up to \$50,000. These fixed interest rate loans have a ten-year term and are repaid as an assessment on the owner's property tax bill. Learn more about the District's



A sewer lateral in a trench.

Rapid Response Manhole Repair

Staff responded to a service call during a paving project on Calumet Ave in San Anselmo. A manhole casting was struck and broken by heavy machinery, and the resulting debris entered the sewer main. Upon inspection, staff discovered significant damage to the manhole and the downstream pipe collapsed to 80% of its original state. This pipe was originally installed in 1923, 100 years ago!

To temporarily remedy the emergency, field staff promptly restored the functionality of the pipe to avoid an overflow situation. The engineering department then executed an emergency repair contract for both the damaged manhole and the aged pipeline, effectively addressing the identified defects. This important construction repair was accomplished in a narrow window of two days before the Town of San Anselmo's scheduled paving work – an excellent example of rapid field response, nimble public works implementation, and interagency coordination!



Ross Valley Sanitary District manhole in Larkspur.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

Lift Station 20, 31, 32 Improvements

At the July 19 Board Meeting, a construction contract was awarded to Pacific Infrastructure Corporation. Staff have begun the procurement process for the necessary electrical components for the project. The construction management services contract was awarded to Psomas.

The District's Infrastructure Asset Management Plan update of 2021 identified these three lift stations as three of the four 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 1960s and 1970s that is targeted for replacement by the District throughout the service area.

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.



Sign on Lift Station 20.

Woodland Road Creek Crossings and Capacity Improvements

At the August 16 Board Meeting, a construction contract was awarded to Precision Engineering and the construction management services contract was awarded to Park Engineering. Construction is scheduled to begin mid-September on Woodland Rd.

The District'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. The project aims to remove several sewers that are exposed within the waterway and to upsize the trunk line in Woodland Road to provide adequate capacity for wet weather flows and reduce the risk of sewer spills.

Removing exposed sewers significantly reduces the risk of contamination to Tamalpais Creek and potential damage to the sewer main. By removing the exposed sewers from the waterway, the likelihood of leaks, spills, or structural failures that could introduce pollutants into the creek is significantly diminished. Exposed sewers are also more susceptible to damage from external factors, such as erosion or debris, which could compromise their integrity and lead to a sewer spill. This, in turn, safeguards the water quality and ecological health of Tamalpais Creek, benefiting both the aquatic ecosystem, like the threatened steelhead trout, and the surrounding community.

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



Sewer crossing Tamalpais Creek in Kent Woodlands.

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



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, 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.

**The next RVSD Regular Board Meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday, September 20, 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.

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.

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](#)[Sustainability](#)[Contact Us](#)

Contact Us

Phone & Email

[415-259-2949](tel:415-259-2949) (24/7)
Email: 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

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