

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

March 2019

Ross Valley Sanitary District provides this monthly news bulletin of current notable activity and events to stay connected to the community we serve. We welcome your feedback on any information in the bulletin and if at any time you no longer prefer to receive this information, simply unsubscribe using the link below.

For more information, visit www.RVSD.org.

March Updates - As we approach the end of the winter rainy season, there were 13 rainy days in March and no storm water-caused sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Peak rainfall was at its highest on March 6 and March 22, when the County of Marin's Kentfield [rain gauge](#) registered 1.88 inches on each day.

March's rainfall was about 10 inches, a more steady pattern without the peak events and 25 inches of rain measured in San Anselmo in February.

We are proud to report that despite the wet winter, wastewater has remained in our sewer system except for the January 6 construction-related event we discussed in last month's bulletin.



On March 28 we held a community open house to provide information and answer questions about the upcoming [San Anselmo Gravity Sewer Improvements on Butterfield/Meadowcroft-Arroyo](#). The project will enhance local wastewater system reliability and efficiency during wet weather through the installation of 2,300 feet of sewer pipeline ranging in size from 8 to 18 inches in diameter and work on associated structures.

This month we performed due diligence tasks on our likely future headquarters at 1111 Andersen Drive in San Rafael, and we have learned that the building, built in 1986, is well-maintained. The inspection, environmental and appraisal reviews are favorable.



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**New Headquarters to Address
Ross Valley Sanitary District's Long-Term Facility Needs**

Following years of temporary locations and a comprehensive facility assessment process, the District plans to purchase a facility that will consolidate employees, resources and equipment in a single location.

San Rafael, CA – February 14, 2019 – The Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that after years of managing temporary locations and a comprehensive search for alternatives, the District has entered into contract and begun a 45-day due diligence period to purchase a new headquarters at [1111 Andersen Dr., San Rafael, CA 94901](#). The Board of Directors announced the purchase contract at a [public meeting on February 13](#).



The new facility is located near the [Central Marin Sanitation Agency \(CMSA\)](#) treatment plant where RVSD wastewater is treated. The building and location offer a rare opportunity to secure an existing commercial property that is zoned for utility operations like RVSD's, with no impacts to residential areas. The proposed building also brings immediate financial benefits as half of the new facility is currently occupied by [Comcast Corporation](#).

"By centralizing all RVSD employees and operations, the Board is fulfilling its commitment to strategically and proactively plan for the District's long-term success," said Board President Thomas Guirey. "Securing a permanent facility that consolidates staff and equipment to a single location will also improve response time and customer service, and provide long-term operations efficiency."

As has been discussed in the Marin Independent Journal and in the [press release](#) on our website homepage, we believe we have found a good fit for consolidating our operations into one location, just down the street from the [CMSA](#) treatment plant where our wastewater goes to be treated and recycled, to generate renewable energy, and discharged to the Bay.

We are working out final details on the \$12.8 million transaction - which is below the seller's asking price. The building will be financed by revenue bonds and lease payments from the tenant Comcast, and will not affect sewer rates.

We are at the close of a five-year period of scheduled sewer rate increases of 6.5% to 7.5% per year since 2014. These rate increases made up for previous years when no increases occurred, but mounting regulatory requirements called for increased efforts to rehabilitate our aging sewer infrastructure. We have met these requirements, eliminated recurrent storm-related SSOs, and the board is now looking ahead at the next five years and aiming for a rate schedule more closely matched to cost-of-living increases.

At the March 20 board meeting we reviewed the District's financial outlook and used a rate model to test different scenarios to meet targets for operations, maintenance, capital programs and emergency reserves, in order to maintain our increasingly strong credit rating, regulatory compliance and overall financial health. Our consultant received direction from the board and will prepare a draft rate study for the board's consideration at our next regular monthly board meeting. This public meeting occurs on Wednesday April 17, starting at 5pm at the Central Marin Police Authority community room at 250 Doherty Drive in Larkspur, and we welcome our ratepayers to join us and participate in the discussion.

Steve Moore, General Manager

Quick Reminders - [Click here](#) to review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that explain sewer overflows and what to do.

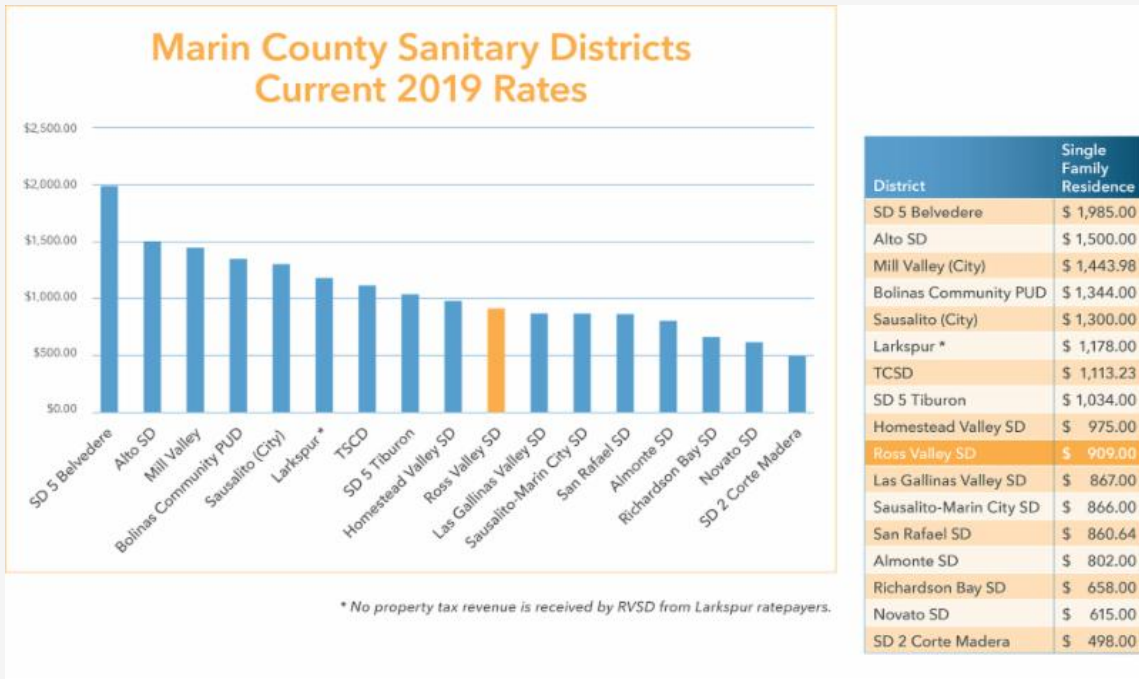
Call the RVSD Emergency Line 24/7 at 415-259-2949 if you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow, leaking pipe, smell odors, or see sewage on the ground.



Emergency crews are available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week!

[Click here](#) to check the California Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board (CSLB) for information before you hire a plumbing contractor. Make sure any plumber you hire is familiar with district policies and programs for any private property sewer emergency.

Did you Know? - How Your Sewer Service Rates Compare



RVSD CIP Construction Update - RVSD Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects are taking place now to rehabilitate underground sewer pipes and associated structures throughout our service area.



These sewer line repairs and rehabilitation projects are critical to protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows.

Click on each of the CIP construction projects listed below for the latest project information and updates.

1. [Fairfax, Larkspur, San Anselmo Sewer Projects](#)
2. [Kentfield PS 15 Improvements](#)
3. [Ross Common / Upper Shady Lane Sewer Improvements](#)
4. [San Anselmo Sewer Improvements - Butterfield](#)
5. [San Anselmo Sewer Improvements - Nokomis](#)

[Click here](#) for a CIP overview, or you can also click here for direct access to our interactive project map. A magnifying glass icon is provided with the map to enter your address and see if construction is currently, or will take place in your neighborhood.

You can also click on the map area you are interested in to identify the project name, contact information and more.

[Click here](#) to select and receive timely construction updates or call us at 415-259-2949.



RVSD APPRECIATES your patience during construction as we fulfill our commitment to making strategic long-term infrastructure improvements.

Next Board Meeting - The The Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held the Third Wednesday of each month at 5pm at the Central Marin Police Authority's Community Room, located at 250 Doherty Drive in Larkspur. **The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 5pm.**

At this meeting we will review a draft rate study report and recommendations for sewer rates beginning July 1, 2019. We will also receive status updates on the cleanup of the Larkspur Landing site, which was recently approved by U.S. EPA, and see public service announcement (PSA) commercials that are being aired on Comcast Cable TV and DirectTV as a community outreach pilot project spearheaded by our Board.

[Check the agenda posting here](#) 72 hours before the meeting for open session time. The meeting will be held at the Central Marin Police Authority's Community Room, located at 250 Doherty Drive in Larkspur.

Want an alert when the next Board meeting agenda is available? Please write to our [Clerk of the Board](#) to request being included in upcoming agenda alerts.

[Click here to visit RVSD.org](#)