

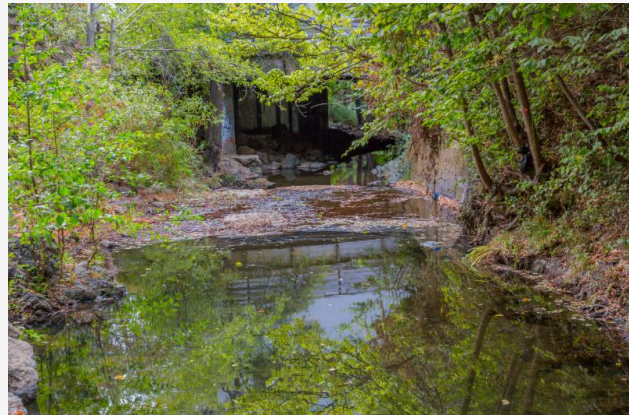
General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

November 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.

As the construction season winds down, we are thankful to have completed an impressive list of capital projects and are grateful for everyone's patience in getting there.



Repairing the sewers in Ross Valley requires working in close quarters due to our narrow roadways and the fact that 35% of our public sewers are located on private property (in easements). At times, this work is difficult for our residents who experience unavoidable impacts from noise and congested streets, unlike the wide streets of places like Fremont or Sacramento, and it requires all of us to have a little more patience. Many thanks to all of you for your understanding. We appreciate all the support and communication as we rise to the challenge of rebuilding the sewer system for future generations.

Our smaller sewer rehabilitation projects in [Fairfax, Larkspur and San Anselmo](#) are substantially complete and project activities are wrapping up. These projects have been challenging at times when one-lane roadways have had to be closed to replace aging clay sewer pipes. The number of pipes replaced was unusually high in order to meet the state's regulatory requirements of four miles of pipeline per year. With the state's requirements satisfied by the completion of these significant projects, we are looking forward to a revised scope of work at closer to two miles per year.

Improvements to the [Kentfield Pump Station 15](#) (PS15) reached a milestone on November 12 when we completed a seven-day test of the new variable frequency drives (VFDs). The VFDs are pump motor controllers that calibrate motor speeds to match wastewater flows which vary based on wet weather or time-of-day. VFDs save energy, extend the life of



the equipment and make flows easier to manage at the CMSA wastewater treatment plant. The pump station is now ready for full-scale, wet weather operation as its final "test" of the electrical and mechanical upgrades.

Major progress was made this year on the trunk sewer system that serves our communities and traverses Fairfax, San Anselmo and Ross on its way to PS15 in Kentfield, which then sends the wastewater parallel to tidal Corte Madera Creek under the bike path on its way to the CMSA treatment plant prior to discharge into San Francisco Bay near the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

New PS15 VFD cabinets Paving and concrete restoration work on Willow Way and Meadowcroft Drive is complete as work wraps up on the [Butterfield/Meadowcroft-Arroyo](#) sewer improvements in San Anselmo, which removed an overflow threat to Sleepy Hollow Creek by eliminating a problematic siphon (under-crossing) and increasing the flow capacity of the trunk sewer there. Sewer improvements on [Lower Shady Lane/Poplar Avenue](#) are substantially complete and this project also increased the trunk sewer capacity and reduced overflow risk to Ross Creek and Corte Madera Creek.

As previously reported, the majority of the cleanup work at our [Larkspur Landing](#) site is now complete and all of the known higher-level PCB material has been removed. Site backfilling, topsoil placement and winter hydroseeding have also been completed in time for winter. The remainder of the project is scheduled to be complete by summer 2020.

Have you seen our Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on TV?

We recently partnered with local sanitary districts to once again air this series of PSAs educating viewers about the importance of keeping items including "Flushable" and all other types of Wipes, Fats Oils and Grease (aka FOG), Sump Pump discharges and Unused Medications out of our sewers. These helpful reminders are especially important as we near the busy winter/holiday season! A message about our Sewer Lateral Replacement grant and loan programs is also airing. [Click here](#) to view all of these PSAs online.



The District is participating in a [California Association of Sanitation Agencies](#) (CASA) statewide scientific study to document what happens to wipes advertised as "flushable" that enter and travel through sewer systems in various settings (flat vs. sloped, large vs. small, etc.). As part of the study, the District recently introduced 21 "flushable" (color coded) wipes into our sewer system to track their level of decomposition over a one-half mile distance in the hills of Greenbrae. Although difficult to discern among all the wipes that were found, we recovered ALL of the test wipes - demonstrating that "flushable" wipes DO NOT break down / degrade after they are flushed. Results of the study will be collected, analyzed and ultimately included in a report to support legislation limiting what companies can claim in advertisements about wipes being labelled and sold as "flushable."

Just as a reminder that [Ordinance No. 91](#) was adopted by the Board at the District's October meeting. This ordinance codifies changes to District Sewer Capacity Charges and Sewer Permit Fees which become effective December 2. The lateral permit fee decreased from \$250 to \$217, based on an analysis of the cost of staff time for processing.

And last but not at all in the least, our [Year-End Metrics Report](#) for Fiscal Year 2018-19

is now available and there's no better place to find a digestible summary of Ross Valley Sanitary District work. Our findings in the report show significant improvement in overall pipe conditions, with associated problems and/or defects going down measurably. The number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) have also gone down over the last three years as we continue programs to repair and replace pipe as well as refine methods used for pipeline cleaning and removal of soft blockages.

Thanks to the work of our own District customers, approximately 25% of all laterals within the District either have been or are currently being replaced. We also want to acknowledge the diligent work of our line maintenance, repair, condition assessment, inspections and pump station crews and administrative staff that make this all possible. We are thankful that all these efforts result in measurable outcomes that we can demonstrate to our customers, ratepayers, regulators and peers in other sanitary districts. Way to go, RVSD crews and employees!

Steve Moore, General Manager

RVSD Reminders

Did you know that Thanksgiving is the most common holiday of the year for sewer overflows? [Click here](#) for more information about how to properly dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) during the holidays and throughout the year!

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

If you see or experience a public sewer emergency, call the RVSD Emergency Line 24/7 at 415-259-2949. Common reasons to call include a manhole overflow, leaking pipe, smell odors or visible sewage on the ground. Our emergency crews are available 365 days of the year, 24 hours a day, seven days per week!

If you experience an overflow in your home or have a similar problem, please visit our website before you hire a plumbing contractor. [Click here](#) to 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.

All of this information can be viewed online [here](#) or by clicking "EMERGENCY" on our website [homepage](#).

Construction Updates - RVSD Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects to rehabilitate underground sewer pipes and associated structures throughout our service area are wrapping up for the year. These sewer line repairs and rehabilitation projects are critical to protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows.



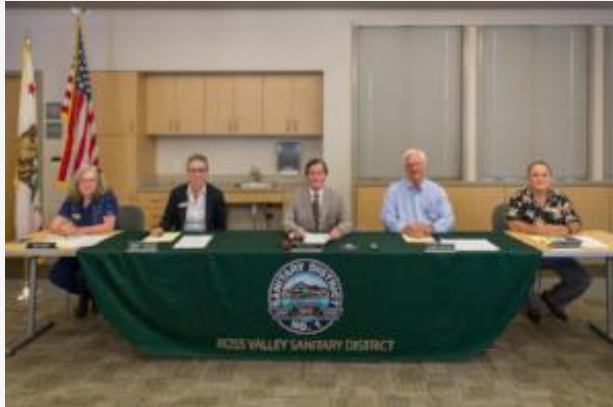
[Click here](#) for details on work in your neighborhood or streets of interest, or on each of the individual projects listed below. You can also visit our [Capitol Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#) page on our website for the latest project information and updates.

1. [Fairfax, Larkspur, San Anselmo Sewer Projects](#)
2. [Kentfield Pump Station 15 Improvements](#)
3. [Lower Shady Lane / Poplar Avenue Sewer Improvements](#)

4. [San Anselmo Sewer Improvements - Butterfield](#)

Want to receive timely construction updates? [Click here](#) to select the project you want updates for 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: 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, Dec. 18, 2019, at 5pm in Larkspur.

[Check the agenda posting here](#) 72 hours before each meeting for open session time.

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

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