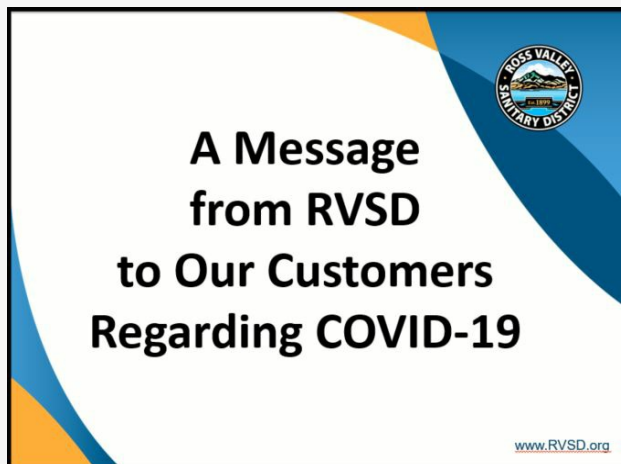


## General Managers' Monthly Bulletin

March 2020

*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](http://www.RVSD.org).



What a difference a month can make. Like everyone, we have been challenged as we adjust our daily lives in the wake of the [COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) has indicated there is no evidence to-date that the COVID-19 virus has been transmitted via sewage systems, with or without wastewater treatment.

As an essential service, RVSD remains operational. RVSD staff are committed to continue our daily operations and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations, which collect, pump, and transport approximately four million gallons of wastewater per day. RVSD is working every day to protect public health and the environment while also respecting the Governor's Orders, including social distancing and frequently washing our hands.

### **Working to Keep You Safe**

Our collection system, pumping equipment, and District services continue to run smoothly. Staff are fully trained and equipped to comply with local, state, and federal safety and quality protocols for managing our sewer system. Public works projects are continuing in all Ross Valley communities. Please remember to always read notices from your public works department - especially now. Additional information for customers to be aware of includes:

- **You can help the community sewer system by flushing only toilet paper.** Wipes, paper towels, rags, and shop towels do not break down and can clog pipes in your home and contribute to clogs and overflows in the public sewer system. In addition, there may be new chefs cooking in your kitchen (kids in particular!) who could benefit from the [videos](#) and [information](#) we have on Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG), which should not be poured down the drain! Be sure to share this information with others.
- **Access to our public lobby and other facilities is now closed to the public and all non-essential visitors until further notice.** We continue to issue permits, schedule essential inspection appointments, and process grant and loan applications electronically via [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org) on Mondays through Thursdays. Our offices will be closed for all business every Friday.
- **All non-essential meetings, inspections, site visits, etc. are cancelled or rescheduled until conditions change and they can be safely rescheduled.** We continue to deliver services wherever possible by appointment, but generally by telephone and digitally, until a more appropriate time. Please continue to communicate with us by phone at 415-259-2940, by email to individual staff members, by email to [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org), or online at [www.rvsd.org](http://www.rvsd.org).

If you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow, leaking pipe or smell or see sewage on the ground, please contact us immediately for 24-hour response at 415-259-2949.

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found at the links provided below:

- [COVID-19 FAQ](#) - Marin County Health and Human Services
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Water/Wastewater Systems](#) - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue working to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient services during this unprecedented time.

*Steve Moore, General Manager*



The District has produced [a new video](#) in response to the increase seen in towels, wipes, and rags getting into the system over the past month. Flushing these items down toilets may clog sewers and cause backups and overflows in streets and at wastewater treatment facilities, creating a public health risk.

**Please remember to ALWAYS put wipes, paper towels and similar products in the trash, not the toilet.**

In addition to our new video, [click here](#) to see videos on how to properly dispose of expired and/or unused medications, Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), and more! Refer to the links below to learn more about what to do with "flushable" wipes and similar items.

- [California Association of Sanitation Agencies](#) (CASA) website.

- [Avoid Fatbergs!](#) Don't Flush Wipes Due to Virus, California Says
- [California Issues Warning](#) about Disinfecting Wipes
- [California Water Board](#) Do NOT Flush Wipes News Advisory
- [Disinfecting Wipes Being Flushed Down Toilets](#) Causing Major Pipe Problems
- [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, 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!

**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 is found online [here](#), or by clicking "EMERGENCY" on our website [homepage](#).

### **Assistant/Associate Engineer Position Available**

The District is excited to announce a rare opportunity to join our CWEA award-winning agency as an Assistant or Associate Engineer. [Click here](#) to view the full job description.



To be considered, candidates must apply online at [www.CalOpps.org](http://www.CalOpps.org) by the April 19, 2020 deadline .

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Construction Projects will continue during the COVID-19 [Shelter in Place Order](#) as these infrastructure upgrades are essential.**

[Upcoming projects are being planned and going out to bid.](#) Information about recently completed projects as well as details on upcoming work in your neighborhood or streets of interest throughout our service area can also be viewed on our [CIP](#) web page. Projects to be constructed this summer and fall include:

- Force Main Appurtenances Project, Larkspur, replacing eight valves on the Force Main system.
- Laurel Grove Sewer Improvements,

Kentfield, between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Makin Grade to increase capacity and prevent sanitary sewer overflows.

- Completion of the [Larkspur Landing Cleanup](#) Project.

The Town of Ross is coordinating a sewer replacement with the replacement of a bridge over San Anselmo Creek on Winship Drive. A similar project is underway at the Nokomis Bridge in the Town of San Anselmo. Both bridge projects will make flood control improvements in Ross Valley.



All of these sewer line repair and rehabilitation projects help protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows.

[Click here](#) for details on upcoming work in your neighborhood or streets of interest, or to view more information about recently completed projects listed above. Visit our [Capital Improvement Program](#) (CIP) web page for the latest project information and updates.

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.

### **Upcoming Paving Moratorium**

The County of Marin [Department of Public Works](#) plans to rehabilitate roads in Murray Park as part of the 2020 Central Region Road Rehabilitation Project. Construction work is tentatively scheduled for late summer or early fall of 2020. After pavement is completed, the County will impose a moratorium of excavation to prolong the life of the pavement.

RVSD encourages property owners to have their sewer lateral tested or replaced in advance of pavement rehabilitation, if it hasn't been recently replaced. **The District has set aside targeted grant funds to support homeowners replacing their sewer lateral in advance of pavement restoration.** Depending on verification by District staff of where your lateral connects to the public sewer main, you may be eligible for total grant funding up to \$2,500. These funds are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

**The District has extended this program to all Murray Park Sewer Maintenance District property owners, effective immediately, so that you can take advantage of this program prior to the planned paving rehabilitation project.**

If you have questions about these grant funds or would like more information on our lateral programs, please contact the District at 415-259-2949 or send an e-mail to [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). Always contact the public works department in your town, city or county in advance of any excavation in the public right of way.

**Due to current conditions, all non-essential meetings for District staff are cancelled or rescheduled until current conditions change.**

**The RVSD Regular Board Meeting has also been rescheduled to April 22 for spring break.**



In the likely event that the meeting is virtual, a public access link and call in information will be posted [online](#), along with the [link to the current agenda](#) on the Friday before the meeting, April 17. This is in accordance with the most recent Governor's Executive Order regarding posting for public meetings.

**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](#)*