

General Managers' Monthly Bulletin

May 2020

Ross Valley Sanitary District provides this monthly news bulletin 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.

June is underway as we continue sewer system activities amidst the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Our work as an essential service includes daily operations and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations, while maintaining physical distances. Our PPE includes RVSD masks that help to identify our agency, and we frequently wash our hands with soap or sanitizer. Work on our essential capital projects also continues during this pandemic, in accordance with the County Health Order construction requirements.

Work on our [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) in Larkspur, replacing eight valves on the Force Main system, began in early May and is anticipated to be complete this October.



RVSD General Manager Steve Moore

Bids for the [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) were opened on May 21. We anticipate selecting a contractor on June 4 and plan to begin project construction in mid-June. This project will include some night work on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to be coordinated with the County's major improvement project. We acknowledge that the sewer improvements are being constructed in an area where there is a paving moratorium. To minimize the impacts, we are using trenchless technologies where feasible and have included restoration of the pavement in the scope of work.

Cleanup activities at the [Larkspur Landing](#) former treatment plant site, required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have resumed with excavation, off haul, import

and backfill activities anticipated to be completed in August. This summer's work includes shoring the excavation pits near existing walls and wetlands, which will create more construction noise than last year's work as soldier piles are driven in using a vibrator. The shoring work will occur in June and probably into early July.

New Electronic Permit System

Like many local governments, our public counter at the front office lobby has been closed to the public due to COVID-19. To maintain, and actually improve service, RVSD staff has been hard at work completing our "over-the-counter" permit system, which we finalized in May.

[Permit applications and fees](#) are on our website. The old process involved issuance of a physical copy of the receipt and permit (with inspection form) to the customer. The customer would then have to keep this permit on site and provide it to our inspectors who would then sign off on the permit and return it to the customer.

Under the new permitting process customers email us the permit information; we then issue the permit and send a digital copy of the receipt and permit inspection information to the customer. Our inspectors now have the digital fillable permit form that they sign off on and email to customers. This new permit process is completely electronic other than mailing in the payments. The digital process minimizes risk and contact for both the public and our staff.

Contractors no longer need to keep a physical copy of the permit on-site and can send permit records to customers via email. Customers can also save these records digitally which is valuable because these signed-off records can serve for up to 20 years' compliance for a property's lateral (i.e., privately-owned side sewer).

I want to thank RVSD staff Sasha Amiri-Nair and Cristina Velasquez, and Inspectors Fred Guerrero and Aaron Dillingham for their efforts to modernize our permit system that benefits both the public and staff with a more efficient and safe process. Thank you!

Working to Keep You Safe

Our collection system, pumping equipment, and District services continue to run smoothly. Fully-trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state, and federal safety and quality protocols for managing our sewer system. Additional information for customers to be aware of includes:

- **Access to our public lobby and other facilities remains 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, Monday through Friday. ***We only accept checks for payment of permits.**
- **All non-essential, meetings, inspections, site visits, etc. also continue to be 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- 259-2949, by email to individual staff members, to Info@rvsd.org, or online at www.rvsd.org.
- **Please remember to help the community sewer system by flushing only toilet paper.** Wipes, paper towels, rags and shop towels do not break down and can clog your home's pipes 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 video on FOG: Fats, Oils & Grease, which should not be poured down the drain! You can see all informational videos via our website [Sustainability page](#).

- **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:

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

A quick reminder to Marin County residents that it's not too late to [fill out your 2020 census form online](#) . The County still needs census takers in Marin! [Click here](#) for more information.

We sincerely hope you and your families and friends continue to be well in these uncertain times and please know we are happy to assist you with figuring out any challenges related to the sewer system. Feel free to call us at **415-259-2949** or email us at info@rvsd.org. Thank you!

Steve Moore, General Manager



THANK YOU ROSS VALLEY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES!! With your continued support during May we are not seeing a general increase in the amounts of non-flushable paper products in our sewers and pump stations. But there are a few places where we've seen some increased blockages caused by wipes and paper towels. Please remember to **ALWAYS** put wipes, paper towels and similar products in the trash, not the toilet.

[Click here](#) to see videos on how to properly dispose of expired and/or unused medications, 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

Important Reminders:

[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](#).

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Construction Projects Will Continue during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order as these are essential infrastructure upgrades

[Click here to view](#) upcoming projects being planned, projects out to bid, and projects recently completed throughout our service area.

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

Visit our [CIP web page](#) for the latest project information and updates as the projects begin construction per the anticipated dates list below:

- [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) (Larkspur), replacing eight valves on the Force Main system - Construction began in early-May.
- [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) (Kentfield - between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Makin Grade) to increase capacity and prevent sanitary sewer overflows - Bids closed on May 21. Project work is scheduled to begin June 14.
- **Larkspur Pump Station 14 Improvements and South Eliseo Pump Stations 24 & 25 generator replacements** (Larkspur) - Projects are currently in the design phase.
- **Large Diameter Gravity Sewer Project** (Lower Shady Lane/Poplar Ave) is completing lateral connections that were added to the original scope of work to the new sewer located in Bolinas Road - Work is anticipated to be complete in June 2020.
- [Larkspur Landing Cleanup Project](#) - Cleanup activities resume in early June.

[COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) measures were adopted by the District in early-April 2020. These measures are in place and will be adhered to throughout construction on these projects, as well as in our daily operations and maintenance practices.

Want to receive timely construction updates? [Click here](#) to select the project you want updates for or call us at 415-259-2949.

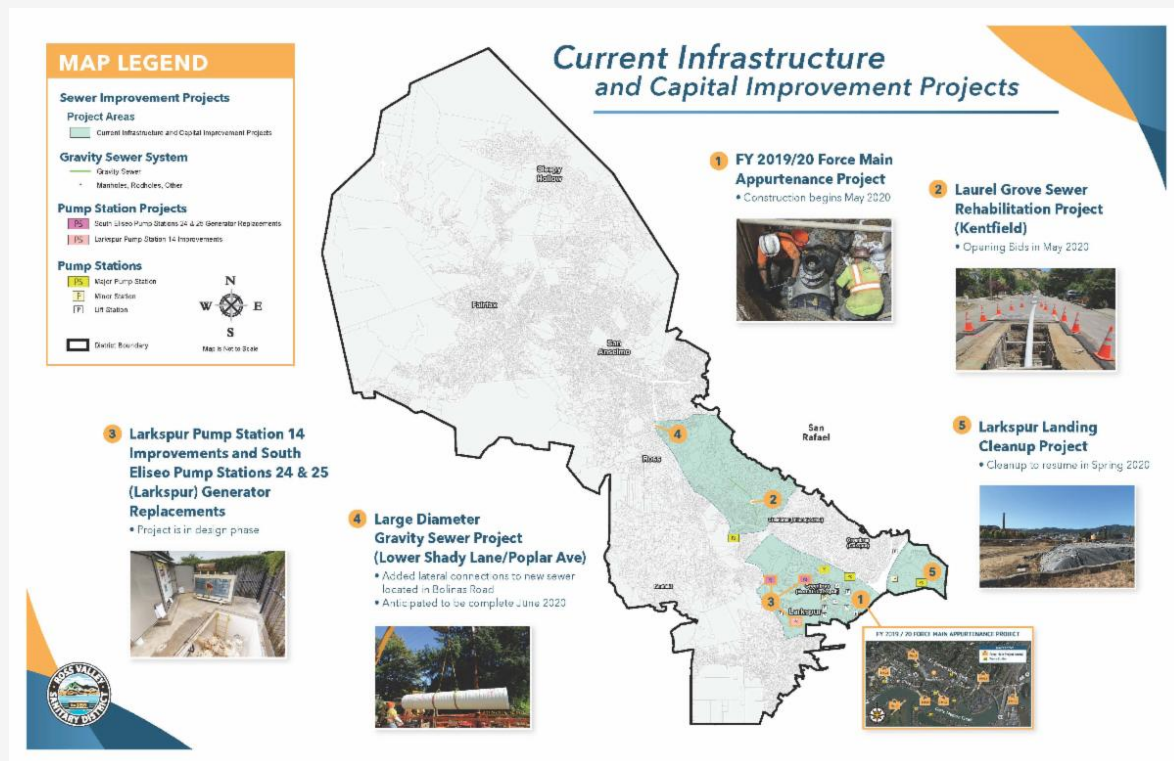


Next Board Meeting: Due to current COVID-19 conditions, **members of the public can attend the RVSD Special Board meeting on Thursday, June 4 at 5:00 PM from their computer, tablet or smartphone.**

Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM.

The RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 5:00 PM.** [Click here](#) for updated meeting access information 24 hours before the meeting. [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](http://RVSD.org)