

General Managers' Monthly Bulletin

June 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.

Summer has arrived as we continue our lives along with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As an essential service, our daily operation and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations continues - from the appropriate physical distances.



Our staff working in the field can be seen wearing RVSD masks that help to identify our agency, and we frequently wash our hands with soap or sanitizer to help maintain public health in our community. Work on our essential capital projects will continue throughout this pandemic, in accordance with the County Health Order construction requirements.

In addition to the impact of COVID-19 over the past few months, the world around us continues to change as communities engage with each other and unite in the call for racial equity. This is a time where we all have the opportunity to engage more with our neighbors and others who share our close knit Marin County community. All of us at RVSD are reminded to strengthen our commitment to diversity as part of our mission to provide excellent customer service as we continue to protect public health and the environment.

We recently published updated [2020 Standard Specifications and Drawings](#), which apply to the design and construction of all public sewerage facilities and side sewers in the District. Our updated [2020 Approved Materials List](#) is also available.

During their regular monthly meeting on June 17, the RVSD Board of Directors adopted the [Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 -2021](#).

On June 4, the RVSD Board of Directors approved Glosage Engineering, Inc. as the contractor for the [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#). **Night work on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (at the easterly Laurel Grove Ave. intersection) is anticipated to begin Monday, July 6 and will take approximately three weeks to complete.**

This project is anticipated to be complete by the end of October 2020. The schedule is subject to revision to coordinate with the construction of the Marin County [Upgrade the Drake Project](#). Pavement restoration will meet County standards. Check out the Laurel Grove Project webpage for more information.



Drill Rig installing piers for shoring walls at Larkspur Landing

On June 1, we resumed cleanup activities at the [Larkspur Landing](#) former treatment plant site, as required by the U.S. EPA. The soil cleanup project is anticipated to be complete 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 occurred in June into early July. Our team is working to continue all work on schedule and keep the neighboring homes and businesses updated.

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

Student Scholarship Program

In an effort to support our future workforce by providing financial assistance to qualifying students toward their higher education, the District is excited to launch a [Student Scholarship Program](#). RVSD is offering three (3) scholarships of \$1,000 each to 2020 high school graduates to help support their post-high school education.

Participants must live within the RVSD service area (Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Larkspur, Ross, San Anselmo, and Sleepy Hollow), be a member of the 2020 high school senior class, and have achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher during this 2019-2020 academic school year to participate. **Completed applications and essays must be received by Monday, August 31, 2020 to be considered.** [Click here](#) for more information and detailed application instructions.

Scholarships are Available!

Rose Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) is offering three scholarships of \$1,000 each to high school seniors to help support their post-high school education needs and goals.

1. Be a member of the RVSD service areas: Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Larkspur, Ross, San Anselmo, or Sleepy Hollow
2. Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher
3. Submit completed application form and essay to the deadline
4. Provide a valid Driver's License

Children of RVSD employees are NOT eligible. Students needing a parent/guardian will need to provide a Waiver/Authorization form.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit completed application form (download) to [rvsd@rvsd.org](#) or [\(415\) 908-1000](#) no later than **close of business on Monday, August 31, 2020**. In the application form, all essays must be received by the deadline, postmarked to the district. [Click here](#) to view our application and essays.

Rose Valley Sanitary District
Attn: Teacher Address
6000 Serrano Blvd.
San Pablo, CA 94801
(415) 908-1000

Rose Valley Sanitary District
[www.rvsd.org](#)

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Investments in the Future for All

In July 2018, the District enrolled all of its energy services in the 'Deep Green' program at [Marin Clean Energy](#) (MCE) to reduce its carbon footprint. This program ensures that the electricity we use for our daily operations produces zero pounds of

CO2 per megawatt hour (mWh). The results District efforts since enrolling in the program have been very encouraging.

Over the last 12 months we used 7,447 mWh of electricity - and prevented nearly four million pounds of CO2 greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere - by participating in the Deep Green program. This savings is roughly equivalent to preventing the gas emissions produced by 300 homes' electricity use for one year OR having prevented gas emissions equivalent to consuming 4,098 barrels of oil.

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 (payments by check only), schedule essential inspection appointments, and process grant and loan applications electronically via info@rvsd.org, Monday through Friday. Please continue to communicate with us by phone at 415-259-2949, by email to individual staff members, by the email address above or visit us online at www.rvsd.org.
- **Please remember to help the interconnected community sewer system by flushing only toilet paper.** "Flushable" wipes (which are not biodegradable), paper towels, rags and shop towels do not break down and not only clog your home's pipes but contribute to clogs and overflows in the entire public sewer system. This affects the health and safety of the community and environment. In addition to sewer back-ups, we are seeing many new "chefs" cooking at home kitchens (kids in particular!) who could benefit from our video on FOG: Fats, Oils & Grease, which should not be poured down the drain! You can see all informational videos on 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

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

Steve Moore, General Manager

NEVER flush paper
alternatives down the toilet.
They cause sewer backups!



Help Protect Our Community and Environment.
www.rvsd.org



ATTENTION ROSS VALLEY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES!! During June we studied levels of wipes and rags at our largest pump station and documented a **20% INCREASE** in the amounts of non-flushable paper and other products.

While these did not cause overflows, we are concerned about the trend as the pandemic wears on. We appreciate that most of you do not use the toilet as a trash can, but we need to remind ourselves to only flush toilet paper in order to prevent overflows and protect our health! Like other intestinal/enteric pathogens, the SARS-CoV-2 virus (the cause of COVID-19 disease) is in our sewers - making overflow and spill prevention more important than ever!

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, 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

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 continue during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order as these are essential infrastructure upgrades.

[Upcoming projects are being planned and going out to bid](#) and recently completed projects throughout our service area can be viewed online.

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

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

- [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 - Nighttime construction is anticipated to begin July 6.
- **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 now anticipated to be complete in July 2020.
- [Larkspur Landing Cleanup Project](#) - Cleanup activities resumed in early June, with the project scheduled to be complete by end of summer 2020.

[COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) measures were adopted by the District in 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.

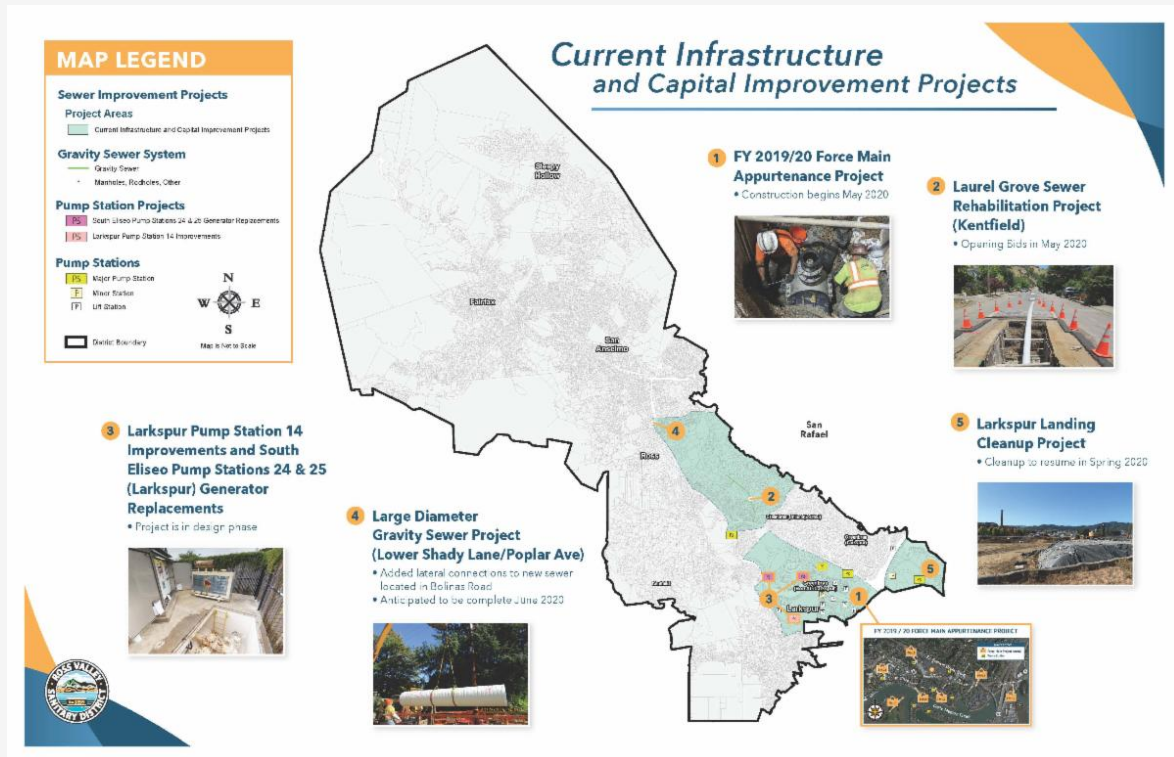


Due to current COVID-19 conditions, members of the public can attend RVSD Regular Board Meetings from their computer, tablet or smartphone.

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, July 15, 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)