

## General Managers' Monthly Bulletin

August 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 please contact us via email to [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). You can also visit us online at [www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org) for more information.*

With all the disruption everyone is experiencing these days, RVSD can provide some peace of mind that our sewer systems will be reliable, and if there are problems, they will be rapidly addressed. Our staff has remained dedicated to their work throughout the pandemic, the hot summer days, and poor air quality due to local wildfires, providing the community with essential wastewater services.



RVSD Main Office

We continue to conduct our daily operation and maintenance of approximately 200 miles of collection sewer lines and 19 pumping stations while observing appropriate physical distance requirements, using sanitizer and wearing masks. We implement the County Health Order in our day-to-day operations, as well as our capital improvement projects, which have all gone forward this summer.

The [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) remains on schedule to be complete by the end of October 2020. This project is replacing old, under-sized sewers that were originally installed about 100 years ago. The project team closely coordinated with the construction of the Marin County [Upgrade the Drake Project](#) and completed work along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (SFD) without any impact to that important project.

The photo on the left shows the old 10-inch diameter clay sewer pipe (orange) under SFD was surrounded by telecommunications lines (white) and electric lines (black). This sewer needed to be up-sized to 15-inches to convey existing flows. Because there was not room, a parallel 12-inch High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) sewer was designed, installed and threaded between



the electric, gas, water, telecommunications and storm drain lines, within three weeks of this discovery.

An eight-inch HDPE sewer was also slip-lined into this existing 10-inch clay sewer to create the needed capacity in two parallel pipes. Fortunately this work was completed just before the [Water Main break](#) flooded the area on August 4.

The old six-inch diameter sewer along Laurel Grove Avenue is being up-sized to eight- inches and 10- inches using the trenchless method of pipe bursting, which takes less time and causes less impact to pavement than open trench construction. The

contractor will return to perform pavement restoration in a few weeks.

Our [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) replaces eight valves on the Force Main system. Now that bird nesting season is over, work on valves in Piper Park and on South Eliseo Drive will commence. The work at the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. interchange with 101 is almost complete. Valve and vault manufacturing delays due to COVID-19 has also delayed some of our work on this project by one or two months. We believe we will be able to consolidate delayed work items and still meet the target of completion by November. Watch for project updates as they become available.

Cleanup activities have been completed at the [Larkspur Landing](#) former treatment plant site, as required by the U.S. EPA. Remaining work includes planting vegetation via hydroseeding.

The District is now embarking on the next phase of the property disposition with the selection this month of Century Urban to provide real estate consultant services. This will include developing a schedule and plan to engage the public and the City of Larkspur about this unique site, located across the street from Marin Country Mart and near the Larkspur Ferry Terminal and SMART station. Stay tuned!



Topsoil being installed over the cleanup area at Larkspur Landing on August 25. Remaining work involves planting vegetation by hydroseeding.

**The deadline to receive [Student Scholarship Program](#) applications has been extended to Wednesday, September 30, 2020.** The program is providing financial assistance to qualifying students by offering three (3) scholarships of \$1,000 each to 2020 high school graduates to help support their post-high school education. [Click here](#) for more information and detailed application instructions.

**Safety is our Top Priority.** Our fully trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state and federal safety and quality protocols for managing our sewer system. Their daily goal is to ensure our collection system, pumping equipment, and District services continue to run smoothly. Additional information 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](mailto:info@rvsd.org), Monday through Friday. Call 415-259-2949 for assistance.

- **Please remember to only flush toilet paper.** "Flushable" wipes (which are not biodegradable), paper towels, rags and shop towels do not break down. They clog pipes and contribute to clogs and overflows in the public sewer system, effecting the health and safety of the entire community and environment. RVSD has a series of informational videos available 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.**

During these challenging times please know we are happy to assist you with figuring out any challenges related to the sewer system. Call us at 415-259-2949 or email us at [info@rvsd.org](mailto:info@rvsd.org). Thank you!

*Steve Moore, General Manager*



**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 per year, 24 hours per 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](#).

**Our ongoing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects continue during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order as these are essential infrastructure upgrades.**

Sewer line repair and rehabilitation projects help protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows. You can view [upcoming projects being planned and going out to bid](#) as well as recently completed projects throughout our service area.

Visit our [Capital Improvement Program](#) (CIP) web page for the latest project information and updates for each of the projects listed below:

- [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) (Kentfield - between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Makin Grade) to increase capacity and prevent sanitary sewer overflows. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of October.
- [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) (Larkspur), replacing eight valves on the Force Main system - Construction is anticipated to be complete by November.
- [Larkspur Landing Cleanup Project](#) - Cleanup activities are complete.
- **Larkspur Pump Station 14 Improvements and South Eliseo Pump Stations 24 & 25 generator replacements** (Larkspur) - Projects are currently in the design phase.

[COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) measures were adopted by the District in April 2020 and are updated as needed in response to local and state mandates. 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.

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

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, September 16, 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.




Ross Valley Sanitary District

 **Your efforts**  
protect our **environment!**

**Help prevent sewer backups:**

- **NO wipes** in the pipes!  
Flush **ONLY** toilet paper.
- Keep fats, oil & grease out of your drain.
- Keep hazardous waste, pesticides & medications out of drains.
- Regularly inspect & maintain your sewer pipes.



**WIPES  
CLOG  
PIPES**

RVSD has achieved  
**100% renewable energy**  
through MCE's Deep Green program!

[www.RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org) • 415-259-2949

[Click here to visit RVSD.org](http://www.RVSD.org)