

General Managers' Monthly Bulletin

October 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 at info@rvsd.org. Visit us online at www.RVSD.org for more information.



It's hard to believe the holidays will soon begin to arrive and we wish everyone the best as we continue to navigate these challenging times. Our staff remain dedicated to ensuring the essential 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.

The District's summer construction projects are winding down, with very little work to do before the rainy season begins. The [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) sewers are installed and only surface clean-up work remains. Our [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) in Larkspur, which replaces eight valves on the pressurized sewer system, is mostly complete. The last air release valve will be installed by the end of November. We appreciate everyone's patience as we upgrade these old sewers and appurtenances.

Design work is underway for 2021 projects including backup power improvements at Pump Stations 14, 24 and 25 in Larkspur and gravity sewer improvements in Sequoia Park, Butterfield Road (between Arroyo and Kenrick), South Eliseo (by Bon Air Road), and Kent Woodlands.

This month RVSD accepted into its sewer system the formerly private sewer system of Larkspur Creekside Homeowners Association (HOA). Next to tidal Corte Madera Creek, this project rehabilitated almost a half-mile of sewer main, installed 10 new manholes, and replaced 70 lower laterals, all located in a low-lying area of the District subject to groundwater infiltration and differential subsidence and subsequent sagging of pipes. The HOA paid for and managed construction. RVSD inspectors ensured the new sewers meet District standards.

This project will reduce groundwater infiltration and stormwater inflow into the sewer system, reducing salinity levels in the wastewater and lowering peak flows to the CMSA treatment plant. As with all our capital projects, this project also reduces future maintenance requirements with sags removed and new pipe joints sealed, preventing root intrusions. Sags and roots both cause blockages and are leading factors in requiring high frequency line maintenance as well as causing sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

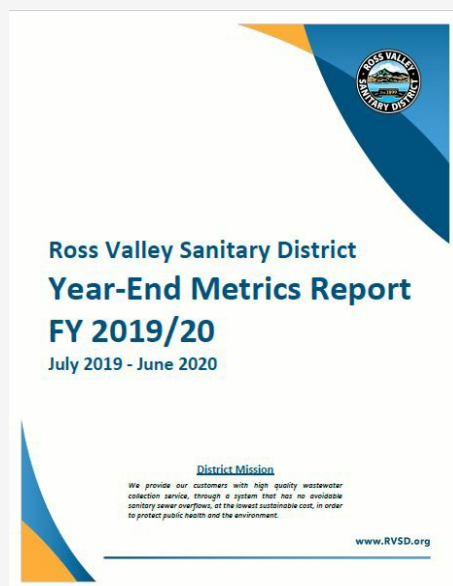
RVSD accepted the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the [Fiscal Year 2018-19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#). Each year the GFOA considers awarding a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to public agencies who submit a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).



The GFOA judges the report to ensure it meets a specific set of criteria and that the agency's financial statements and performance are reported accurately and fairly represent the financial position of the agency. CAFRs that do not adequately meet this standard list of criteria do not earn the award.

The District has produced and submitted a CAFR to the GFOA for consideration and earned a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting since Fiscal Year 2009/10. [Click here](#) to view current and prior CAFRs, as well as audited financial statements, approved budgets and other financial information.

This month the District awarded three local students \$1,000 each through a [Student Scholarship Program](#). Each 2020 Scholarship recipient submitted a well-written essay and received \$1,000 in financial assistance to help support their post-high school education.



Our [FY 2019/20 Year-End Metrics Report](#) was released this month, demonstrating consistent performance in "output" metrics (e.g., lines cleaned, repairs conducted, lines televised, manholes assessed, and laterals replaced), and improved performance in "outcome" metrics (e.g., reduced SSOs, reduced pipe defects, reduced percent of rain into sewer system, and increased use of recycled water).

The metrics are collected over the past four to five years, showing trends in specific outputs and outcomes. The performance metrics provide a concrete accounting of RVSD's sustained commitment to excellence, which was maintained at the same high levels despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic for four of the twelve months

between July 2019 and June 2020 (FY 2019/20).

I want to recognize that the achievements in this report would not be possible without the excellent work and commitment of RVSD operations and administrative staff over the years, in addition to the strong support and encouragement of the elected board members. Thank you RVSD staff and board!

Safety is a Top Priority. Our fully trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state and federal safety and quality protocols for managing the Ross Valley sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. Every day, their work ensures our wastewater collection system, pumping equipment, and essential District services continue to run smoothly. Additional reminders to be aware of include:

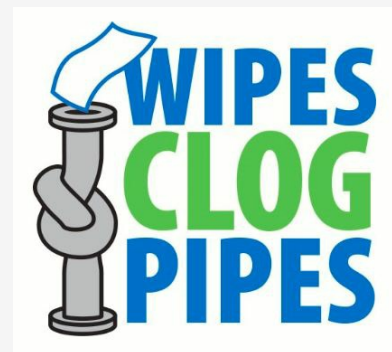
- **Access to our public lobby and other facilities remains closed to the public and all non-essential visitors until further notice.** We continue to issue permits (payments by check only), schedule essential inspection appointments, and process grant and loan applications electronically via info@rvsd.org, Monday through Friday. 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 your home's pipes and contribute to clogs and overflows in the public sewer system, affecting the health and safety of the entire community and environment. RVSD has a series of informational videos available on our [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.**

Please know we are always happy to assist you with answering any questions related to the sewer system. With all that is going on we want you to have peace of mind that you can count on your community sewer system to safely and reliably convey the waters from your sinks, showers, washing machines, dishwashers, bathtubs and toilets. If you have any questions or observations of concern, don't hesitate to call us at **415-259-2949** or email us at info@rvsd.org. Thank you!

Steve Moore, General Manager

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, (NACWA) recently released a nationwide study that provides an estimate of increased utility operating costs as a result of wipes being flushed down toilets instead of being placed in the trash.

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) collaborated with NACWA and other water associations to produce this report. Go to [CASA's website](#) to see the full report and visit NACWA's new [Toilets Are Not Trashcans webpage](#) for more information.



Please remember to ALWAYS put wipes, paper towels, and similar products in the trash, not the toilet. ONLY toilet paper and human waste are flushable.

You can also [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.



RVSD Vaccon Competency Training

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) webpage for the latest project information and updates for each of the projects listed below:

- [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) (Larkspur), replacing eight valves on the Force Main system - Construction is mostly complete. The last air release valve will be installed by the end of November.
- [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) (Kentfield - between Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Makin Grade) to increase capacity and prevent sanitary sewer overflows. Sewers are installed and only surface clean-up work remains.
- Larkspur Pump Station 14 Improvements and South Eliseo Pump Stations 24 and 25 generator replacements (Larkspur) - Projects are currently in the design phase.
- [Larkspur Landing Cleanup Project](#) - Cleanup activities are complete.

Want to receive timely construction updates? [Click here](#) to select the project you want

updates for or call us at 415-259-2949.

[COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) measures were first 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

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, November 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM via GoToMeeting.

[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](#)