



General Managers' Monthly Bulletin

November 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.



As November ends, our best wishes go to everyone adjusting normal holiday plans to comply with the latest CDC safety precautions due to the increase in COVID-19. 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 distancing requirements, using sanitizer and

wearing masks now and throughout the coming holiday season.

Construction work is winding down for the season. The [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) in Kentfield and [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) in Larkspur are fully operational, with minor "punch list" items remaining to be completed this month. We are grateful for everyone's patience in the community as we rebuilt this infrastructure, some of which dated back to our very beginning in 1899!

This past month the Board adopted Resolution No 20-1598, approving expanded eligibility for the Sewer Service Charge Assistance Program to non-profit, low-income affordable housing developments. RVSD is already unique in California for offering a 25% discount for eligible low-income property owners of single family homes. About 100 property owners throughout the District currently benefit from this program. We use the Marin Housing Authority income thresholds for low-income, which are higher than the PG&E CARES program thresholds, accounting for the higher cost of living in Marin County. Multi-family property owners asked about expanding the program for their participation, and we analyzed the potential for program expansion and concluded that we could offer it to the several non-profit low-income affordable housing developments in our District for the next property tax bill.

At our [Larkspur Landing](#) property, we have completed construction activities for site cleanup of PCBs (a compound that was present in some of the paint that was used

on the site). The cost of construction, engineering and permitting for this cleanup has been approximately \$9.5 Million since 2018, and \$10 Million in total. Next month RVSD will submit the final site cleanup completion report to U.S. EPA for their acceptance. When U.S. EPA formally accepts the completion report, the site will be available for unrestricted land use, and we will be able to move to the next stage of determining the proper disposition of what will be surplus property area on the former wastewater treatment plant site.

In any future development, RVSD will retain a perimeter area around Pump Station 10 at the property, which conveys the wastewater from the entire Larkspur Landing area east of Highway 101 to the force main that goes to Central Marin Sanitation Agency. We have similar perimeter areas around our other major pump stations in Kentfield (by the Corte Madera Creek multi-use path), Larkspur (by Hall Middle School) and Greenbrae (by Bon Air Center).

We continue the public process of discussing the disposition of the Larkspur Landing property at a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, December 3 at 4 p.m. via GoToMeeting. This will be the second Informational Presentation (II) focusing on Current Land Use Entitlements and the Larkspur General Plan Update. The first public Informational Presentation occurred on September 30, 2020 and focused on potential Transaction Structures (i.e., lease, sale, or joint venture development).

[Click here](#) to see the first Informational Presentation given on September 30. Information going back to the late 1990s is also posted on our [Larkspur Landing](#) webpage. [Click here](#) to see a video of the presentation. Future informational presentations will include the state's Surplus Lands Act and how it affects the property's disposition.

We encourage our ratepayers to track and participate in this discussion as the Board weighs alternatives, and we will keep you informed about additional opportunities to provide input.

Safety Continues as 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:

- **Our public lobby and other facilities remain 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.
- **If you have a public sewer emergency, such as a manhole overflow or leaking pipe, or you 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



 **Your efforts** 
protect our environment!

Help prevent sewer backups:

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

Did you know that Thanksgiving is the most common holiday of the year for sewer overflows?

Click here for more information about how to properly dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) during the holidays and throughout the year!

Click here to review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) explaining sewer overflows and what to do to prevent them.

Please also 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.

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 view our series of informational 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 [CIP webpage](#) for the latest project information and updates for each of the projects listed below:

- [Force Main Appurtenances Project](#) - Complete except for pavement restoration at Bon Air Center.
- [Laurel Grove Sewer Rehabilitation Project](#) - Complete except for minor repairs and pavement restoration.
- **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, including an update in November 2020. These measures are in place and are adhered to throughout construction on the District's 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 safely and remotely, from a computer, tablet or smartphone.

The next RVSD Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 4 p.m. via GoToMeeting.



The Second Informational Presentation about the Larkspur Landing Property focused on Current Entitlements and the Larkspur General Plan Update will be included in this meeting.

Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m..

The RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 5 p.m. 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](http://RVSD.org)