

General Manager's Monthly Bulletin - June 2021

Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) provides this monthly news bulletin to stay connected to the community we serve. We welcome your feedback on any information in the bulletin. If at any time you no longer prefer to receive this information, please email us at info@rvsd.org. Visit us online at www.RVSD.org for more information.

Access to our public lobby and other facilities is now OPEN to the public. Our public lobby office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask while in our facilities. We continue to issue permits, schedule inspections and process grant and loan applications electronically via info@rvsd.org or by phone at 415-259-2949.



Permit Fees and Capacity Charges

Each year on July 1, our Permit Fees and Capacity Charges increase. These fees shall be adjusted by an increment based on the most recent annual change in the Engineering News-Record Construction Cost Index (ENR CCI). The [new fee schedule](#) will be posted online and go into effect beginning July 1. Any permit applications and checks that are not received and approved before July 1 will fall under this new fee schedule.

2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Updates

Work on the [Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements Project](#), which also includes nearby work on Lower Fawn Drive, began on June 18. A public GoToMeeting was held on June 9 to provide more information and answer questions. [Click here](#) to view the meeting PowerPoint presentation.

Bids for the [Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24 & 25 Improvements Project](#) will be opened on July 8, with the contract to be awarded at the July board meeting. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.



Glosage Engineering, Inc. was awarded the construction contract for the [FY 2020/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements Project](#). Work includes repairing and replacing priority sewers in Kent Woodlands, San Anselmo (Sequoia Park), Ross (Skyland), along South Eliseo Drive in Larkspur and other sites. Construction is anticipated to begin in July.

This summer, the District looks forward to upgrading outdated infrastructure throughout the region's interconnected sewer system. This work is another great stride to upholding our mission of providing cost-effective wastewater collection services to residents of Ross Valley.

The photo above is in Sequoia Park, one area that is slated for work as part of this project. An upgraded system will help protect public health and the environment by reducing the risk of sewer overflows. Feel free to view these [upcoming projects](#) being planned and going out to bid as well as [recently completed projects](#) throughout our service area.

Ross Creek Sewer Removal – Project Update

In June, we received a \$20,190 grant from the [California Fish Passage Forum](#) for the Ross Creek Sewer Removal Project.

This organization works with landowners, farmers, foresters, environmental advocates, educators and others to restore fishery habitats throughout California. The project will remove an abandoned 21-inch-diameter sewer pipe and concrete casing constructed in the 1920s from the streambed of Ross Creek (a tributary to Corte Madera Creek at the Shady Lane Bridge).



Following removal of the pipe, we will construct a riffle that will provide out-migrating steelhead trout passage while also maintaining the existing channel grade upstream and downstream of the old pipe crossing. The streambank and riparian vegetation in the construction access way will also be restored. This project is being undertaken voluntarily by the District for ecological and aesthetic benefits.



Building Core Competencies - Training Article

Ross Valley Sanitary District is pleased to be featured as the [cover story](#) in the June 2021 issue of the nationally syndicated [Municipal Sewer and Water Magazine](#). This story highlights the advantages of competency-based training and user-friendly standard operating procedures (SOPs) as well as innovations of our line maintenance and repair crews. Credit to Jim Mcpherson of CTS Inc. for guiding us through this helpful process to enhance core competencies of our wastewater collection system agency.

Financial Health and Transparency

As a public agency, the District is committed to providing quality service at the lowest sustainable cost. Every year, the District Board of Directors adopts a [fiscal year \(July 1 to June 30\) budget](#) and considers ways to maximize production and minimize operational costs. In the Fiscal Year 2021-22, projected operating revenue of \$24.9 million will be sufficient to cover operating expenses of \$20.6 million, with \$4.3 million available to transfer to capital program uses. The District is in the final process of securing a low-cost [State Revolving Fund](#) loan of \$1.3 million to fund the [Butterfield/Arroyo-Kerick Gravity Sewer Improvements](#) construction costs.

Total capital spending is budgeted at \$15.5 million, including private sewer lateral replacement grant and loan funding of \$650,000. The total expenditures of the 2021-22 fiscal year are forecasted to exceed revenues, but the District's total fund balance remains steady. Also, the District's Capital Improvement Target Reserve has been met, fulfilling the Board's "Pay-Go" funding policy for capital investments.

Larkspur Landing

Public outreach will continue throughout the process to consider the appropriate unrestricted land use for this site. We received comments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the draft Larkspur Landing site cleanup completion report RVSD submitted in January. After reviewing these comments, we sent in a final follow-up report this month. The site will be officially available for further consideration of future uses once the final report has been accepted.

The three Informational Presentations held to date are posted on the [RVSD Larkspur Landing webpage](#). 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 Will Still Continue as a Top Priority

Our fully trained staff are equipped to comply with local, state and federal safety and quality protocols for managing the RVSD sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. Every day, their work ensures our interconnected wastewater collection system, pumping equipment and essential District services continue to run smoothly.

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 a 24-hour response at 415-259-2949. Calling us first will result in a faster response than any private company, possibly preventing a discharge to a creek!



Steve Moore, General Manager

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 can be viewed online [here](#) or by clicking the "EMERGENCY" icon on our website [homepage](#).

Ross Valley is on Nextdoor!

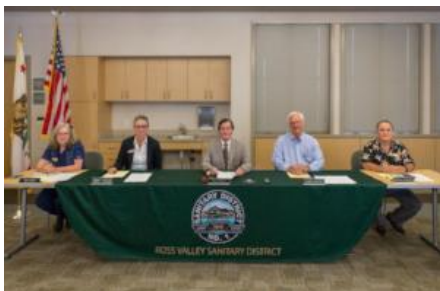
Subscribe to our Nextdoor page [here](#) to find out if there will be construction in your neighborhood.



Upcoming 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects

Watch our [Capital Improvement Program](#) (CIP) web page for the latest information and updates on these upcoming projects.

- **Butterfield/Arroyo-Kenrick Gravity Sewer Improvements** - Construction began on June 18. Work on Butterfield is expected to be complete in August, with work on Fawn Drive finishing up in early fall.
- **FY 20/21 Gravity Sewer Improvements**— Glosage Engineering, Inc. has been awarded the construction contract for this project. Construction is anticipated to begin in July.
- **Larkspur Pump Stations 14, 24 & 25 Improvements**— Project bids will be opened on July 8. Construction anticipated to begin in August.
- **Ross Creek Sewer Removal Project**— Permit applications and fees have been submitted. The project, located by the Shady Lane Bridge at Locust Ave., is on track to meet the goal to construct in early fall, during dry weather.



Members of the public are invited to attend RVSD Regular Board Meetings safely and remotely from a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. These Board Meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice but are likely to resume in person after September 30th, when the Governor's COVID-19 emergency declaration expires.

- **The RVSD Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2021 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
