



General Manager's Monthly Bulletin

June 2017

As part of Ross Valley Sanitary District's (RVSD) ongoing efforts to improve communications and outreach with the community we serve, RVSD is providing this monthly news bulletin of current notable activity and events. 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. This month's bulletin also includes details on our [current community survey](#), which we invite you to complete through June 21, 2017.

More information on the topics below can be found in the May 2017 RVSD Board meeting agenda package, available for download at www.RVSD.org.

Draft Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget: As with other Marin area local government agencies, RVSD's Fiscal Year (FY) runs from July 1 through June 30. The RVSD Board reviewed a draft of the District's proposed FY 2017-18 Budget at the May meeting. Refinements to the draft Budget are being made based on the Board's feedback and direction. The final FY 2017-18 Budget will be presented and considered for approval at the regular Board meeting on June 21, 2017. The RVSD Budget is organized along two primary revenue and spending categories: Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and Capital. RVSD's two primary revenue sources are wastewater utility service rates and ad valorem property tax revenue. Rate revenue is used first to pay for O&M expenses, with any remaining funds then allocated to capital expenses. Ad valorem property tax revenue is used exclusively for capital expenses. Highlights of the draft FY 2017-18 Budget are presented in the staff report included in the [May Board agenda package](#).

Wastewater Utility Service Rate Change Notifications: Based on the Board's direction at the May meeting, RVSD has sent out postcard notifications to all customers for awareness of the scheduled rate increases for FY 2017-18. The FY 2017-18 rate increase is the 4th of a 5-year schedule of changes approved by RVSD in 2014. Over 90 percent of the new rate revenue is dedicated to funding RVSD's capital asset (infrastructure rehabilitation) management plan, including approximately \$30M in construction projects during FY 2017-18 for rehabilitation of the Ross Valley sewer system. The rate increase is 7.4% for customers in the Ross Valley rate zone, and 5.4% for customers in the Larkspur rate zone. The rate charges are collected on the Marin County property tax bill for each property, similar to most Marin-area wastewater utilities. The 2014 Rate Study, 2013 Infrastructure Assets Management Plan and related information is available at <http://rvsd.org/customers>. Frequently asked questions about sewer service charges

may be found [here](#).

Accessory Dwelling Units: The RVSD Board considered the topic of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in response to a recent Marin County Grand Jury report on overcoming barriers to affordable housing in Marin. A new state law (SB 1069) was passed in early 2017 to encourage local government support for ADUs, and included restrictions on local water and wastewater utilities' ability to recoup the cost of service for these new housing units, which are traditionally done through connection fees and/or capacity charges. RVSD will be considering updates to its connection fee and rates ordinance as they pertain to ADUs over the next several months. Interested parties are encouraged to [contact RVSD](#) with questions or concerns related to existing or planned ADUs.

Board of Directors Compensation: The RVSD Board has been reviewing and updating its Board policies over the past year and most recently took action to update its policy on Board compensation. Based on a review and comparison with thirteen wastewater utility Boards in Marin and the greater Bay Area, the Board elected to freeze current compensation for the next three years at \$314 per meeting. RVSD Board members do not receive any other compensation, such as medical insurance, pensions or vehicle allowances.

Marin County Grand Jury Report on OPEB Liabilities: RVSD is reviewing and preparing a response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's recent report, "[Marin's Retirement Health Care Benefits: The Money Isn't There.](#)" RVSD offers a post-retirement medical benefit to qualified employees (those with 20 years of service and over 55 years of age) until they become eligible for federal Medicare coverage. The Grand Jury report assesses changes in the level of financial liability for several dozen Marin-area local governments, since its 2013 report on this same topic. The RVSD Board will consider approving a response to the new report at the regular June 21, 2017 Board meeting.

Road Paving Moratoriums and Private Sewer Laterals: Over 400 properties in the Ross Valley, from Larkspur to Sleepy Hollow, are expected to be impacted by local road paving projects this summer. Once the paving work is finished, it is far more expensive to complete private sewer lateral replacements, due to the repaving standards under the moratorium requirements. Five different agencies are responsible for road projects within the Ross Valley, including Fairfax, San Anselmo, Ross, Larkspur and Marin County. To determine if your property is located along a street with significant paving work this year, please contact your municipality's public works department. RVSD offers grants, loans and free CCTV inspections to assist customers in evaluating their laterals and completing any necessary replacement.

Community Workshop: Please join us on June 21, 2017 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Central Marin Police Authority Community Room, located at 250 Doherty Drive in Larkspur. The RVSD team will be at this community workshop to share information related to the District's lateral grant program, our budget and finances, upcoming capital construction projects and remediation efforts for the 2000 Larkspur Landing property, as well as answer any questions from the community. The workshop will be held on the same evening as our June Board meeting, which will begin at 7 pm. All community members are welcome!

Community Survey: We want to hear from you!

Please [click here](#) to complete a 5-minute survey that will allow us to better understand your customer service needs. The survey is available until June 21. To request a paper copy of the survey, or for any questions, please call us at (415) 259-2949 or email survey@rvsd.org.

[*Click Here for the RVSD Survey*](#)