

THE PIPELINE

News From Your Ross Valley Sanitary District

Revolutionary Pipe Repair System Could Save Millions! Board Approves Pilot Program to Invest in "Pipe Bursting" Technology

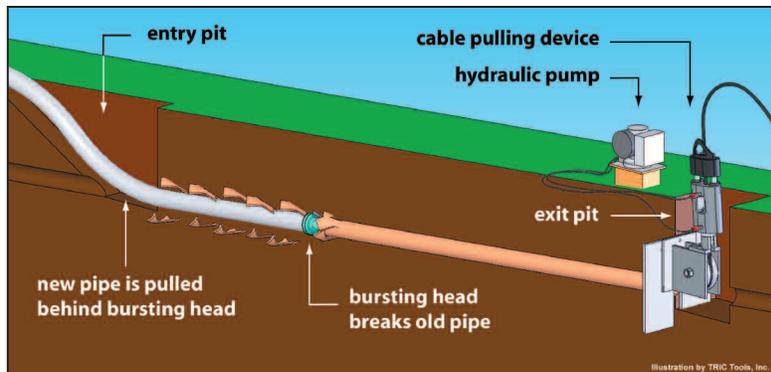
This summer your district will start making pipe repairs using a trenchless technology called Pipe Bursting. While the idea of actually bursting pipes to repair them might sound a little counterproductive, this innovative technology could save millions of dollars each year and allow us to repair more pipe!

Here is how it works. As you are no doubt aware, when your sewer or water district makes a pipe repair, the traditional method is to dig a trench to remove the old pipe and install a new one. Not only is this process slow and expensive, it can have a dramatic impact on traffic and the environment!

Pipe bursting is a system that pulls a specialized bursting head through an existing pipe. As the head is pulled

You don't need to be an engineer to grasp the positive impacts on costs, traffic and the environment when repair work is done without tearing up the ground!

While certainly revolutionary, pipe bursting has been around for over 20 years, but like many advances, it has taken time before the technology has become affordable and practical for purchase by districts like ours. Fortunately, a number of independent contractors have been able to



through the old pipe, it is broken (it bursts the pipe!) and the pieces are pushed outward to accommodate a new pipe that is pulled through from behind

to afford the investment in pipe bursting equipment and we have been able to utilize it over the last several years in making pipe repairs.

(Continued on back page)

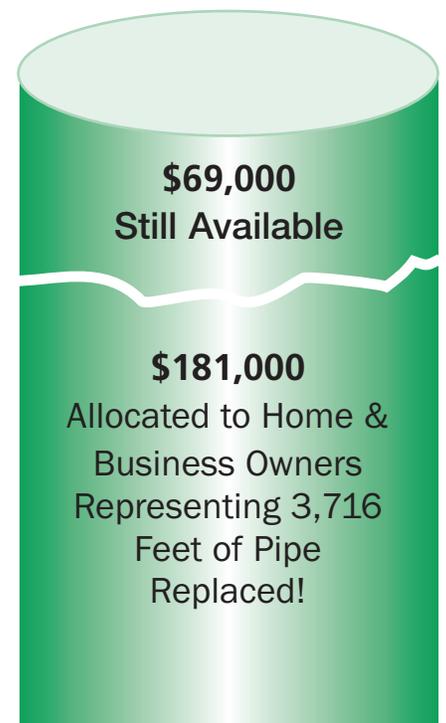
Serving Ross Valley & Larkspur Residents

More Grant Dollars to Fix Your Sewer Pipe

If you are experiencing backups, overflows or other problems with your plumbing, now is the time to get your sewer pipe fixed!

Ross Valley Sanitary District's grant program is designed to protect public health and the environment by helping property owners with the cost of repairing their private lateral sewer pipes. These pipes, which run from homes and businesses to the public sewer system, are often damaged by roots and shifting soil. They account for approximately 50% of all sewer spills!

Our innovative program will pay up to \$4,000 or one half of your sewer pipe replacement, whichever is less. To learn more about the program please visit www.rvsd.org or call 259-2949.



The Big Picture

According to the
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency:

**1.26 Trillion
Gallons**
of untreated sewage
is spilled every year
by sewer systems
resulting in . . .

\$50.6 Billion
in cleanup costs!

Invest 90 Riveting Minutes to Learn About Your Water Infrastructure!

"Liquid Assets" is an award-winning documentary about the nation's essential water infrastructure that will shock you and get you talking.

The program, which was released just 18 months ago and has aired on more than 80% of the nation's public television stations, tells the story of America's distressed water infrastructure systems; drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

It's a scary tale of a looming crisis facing our nation due to the condition of 50 to 100-year-old water and sewer systems. These systems are critical components for basic sanitation, health, public safety, economic development and a host of other necessities of life.

"You wouldn't let your house be 100 years old without doing any maintenance to it . . . you would make sure that at

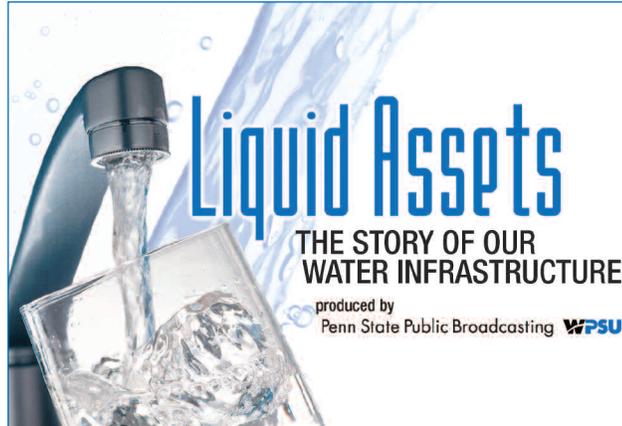
least it was safe," says Linda Kelly, one of the program's featured speakers from the Water Environment Federation.

Kelly's point is that as a nation we have put off maintaining and replacing systems that are essential to our safe existence!

While the program is required viewing for our entire district staff, we feel so strongly about the value of this program for our customers, we have purchased copies for local libraries and our district headquarters that you can borrow.

Along with an interesting history of water and sanitary systems, the documentary underscores what needs to be done here in Marin to protect our quality of life.

We believe it will also help our ratepayers to understand the importance of the work that is now underway in the community to improve our sewer system.



Contacts

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"We have about 2 million miles of pipe in this nation. If you look at what we're spending now and the investment of the next 20 years, there's a \$540 billion difference."

- Steve Allbee, EPA

WATCH THE OVERVIEW ONLINE THEN PICK UP A COPY AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR DISTRICT OFFICE

Please at minimum watch the 16-minute overview online at
www.liquidassets.psu.edu

Call ahead to your local library or our district headquarters to reserve a copy

Available at the Following Libraries:

Corte Madera, Fairfax, Larkspur, San Anselmo and San Rafael

Two Major Capital Improvement Projects Get Underway in June

Fully-Funded Work to Have Major Impact on System Reliability

Everyone in the Ross Valley and Larkspur will have something to celebrate soon as two important capital improvement projects at the top of the district's "priority list" are started.

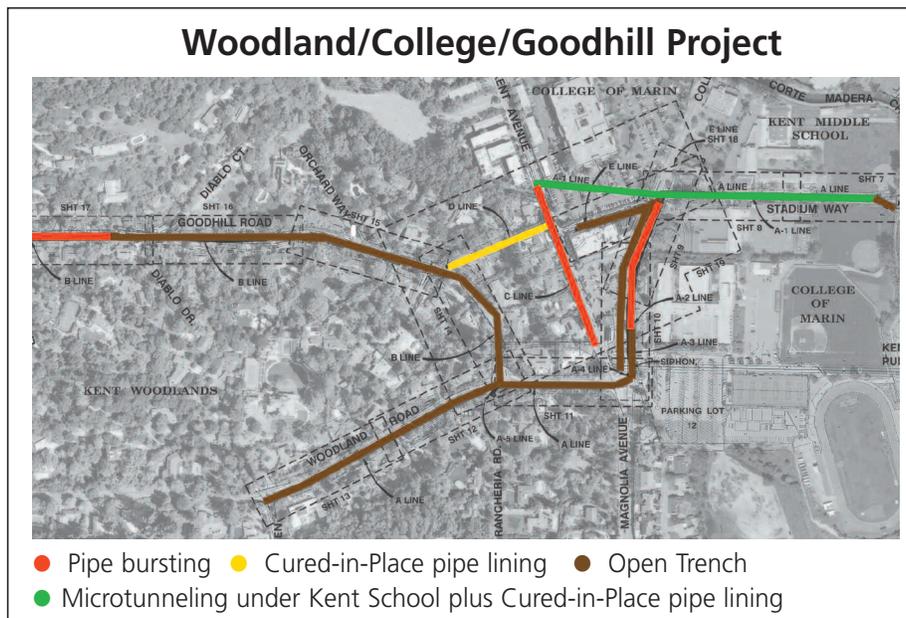
The Woodland/College/Goodhill (WCG) project will replace sewer pipe that dates back as far as the 1920s and the Kentfield Force Main project will replace a key pipe that provides service to 60% of the district's customers.

Both projects will have a huge impact on the safety and reliability of the system and will utilize state-of-the-art engineering and strict environmental planning to address some considerable challenges.

Woodland/College/Goodhill Project

The WCG project (pictured below) is situated in the Bay Area's top location for rainfall (Kentfield). This characteristic along with steep gradients and adverse soil conditions, lead to big problems with

infiltration and inflow of water to our sewer system during storms. The alignment of the pipes within the project also runs next to a classrooms and under the



relatively new lunch area at Kent Middle School.

To meet these challenges, your district will increase the capacity of the replacement system to accommodate the rainfall and use a combination of trenchless repair techniques, including Pipe Bursting

(see story on page 1), Microtunneling, and Cured in Place Pipe to dramatically reduce the impact on the community and existing structures. While there will still be "open trench" construction, these newer technologies will reduce the overall impact by an estimated 75% over what this type of project would have cost in the 1980s!

Kentfield Force Main Project

The Kentfield Force Main project will replace a large pipe running along Corte Madera Creek and down South Eliseo Drive. This vital link in our system, which was discussed in the February issue of *The Pipeline*, will increase capacity, reliability and address seismic concerns. The project's planning included working with the school district, the county and Friends of Corte Madera Creek. It also accommodates

the nesting schedule of the endangered California Clapper Rail, whose numbers may have been in the tens of thousands and dwindled to as few as 200 birds in the early 1990s. Today there are maybe 1,800 throughout the San Francisco Bay.

Employee Profile



Randell Ishii, M.S.P.E.
District Engineer

Job Description

Oversees and manages all capital improvement projects, supervises regulatory compliance and provides technical support to the General Manager and district staff.

Current Projects

The Kentfield Force Main and Woodland/College/Goodhill Projects

Best Part of The Job

Working directly with the public in our outreach efforts to explain our infrastructure improvements.

Background

Over ten years experience in water resources. Worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, County of Madera, and as a consulting engineer. Hired to perform university water resources research.

Outside Interests

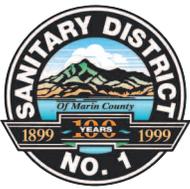
Rodeo: Team Roping and Calf Roping

College Degree

Master's of Science in Civil Engineering, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Residence

Fairfax



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2960 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901

In The Pipeline

Revolutionary Pipe
Repair System Could
Save Millions!

Major Capital Improvement
Projects Begin in June

"Liquid Assets" Program
a Must See DVD

Grant Dollars to Fix
Your Sewer Pipe -
\$69,000 Remain!

Employee Profile:
Your District Engineer

Coming Down The Pipeline

(Next Issue)

Our Underground Economy
- What It Costs to Maintain
and Repair Your Pipes

Household Tips for a
Clean Environment

Project Updates and
Much More!

SERVING THE ROSS VALLEY FOR OVER 110 YEARS!



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THE PIPELINE 4

Pipe Bursting From Page 1

In a proposal approved in April by your Ross Valley Sanitary District Board, the district will begin pipe bursting "in-house" by utilizing our own crews and bursting equipment this month.

"Our studies indicate that we will be able to reduce our cost per mile of pipe in the ground by as much as 50%," says Brett Richards, general manager for the district. "We will also be able to increase the amount of pipe we repair each year by approximately 50% to 75%, and possibly more."

The district plans to lease the pipe

bursting equipment before purchasing it and to train the district's construction crew to use the technology over the next several months. About 145 miles of the district's 200 miles of pipe can be repaired using this system.

"I'm very confident that we have a winner with this technology, but your board would like to see some cost savings before we totally ramp up production," says Richards. "We plan to get those numbers this summer and will report them to our ratepayers as well."

You're Invited to Our Open House!

Join us for refreshments and a tour of our new offices. You'll have the opportunity to meet our friendly staff, learn more about our work in the community, and enter to win one of several door prizes.

Friday, June 25th, 2 to 5 pm
2960 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael



RSVP By June 15th: 259-2949 ext. 206 or kdelaney@rvsd.org