

# Keller Beach Sanitary Sewer Assessment

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Last Updated: January 2026*

### What is the KBSS Assessment and Why is it Needed?

The City is conducting a Feasibility Study to identify critical issues and potential solutions to address the aging Keller Beach Sanitary Sewer (KBSS) that serves Point Richmond. The 65-year-old interceptor is at risk of imminent failure, which would discharge raw sewage directly into San Francisco Bay. Repairing or replacing the sewer line faces several challenges, including:

- **Location:** The interceptor runs underwater along Keller Beach, with much of it submerged during normal tides. Portions also traverse steep cliffs and private property.
- **Age and Condition:** Built in 1959, the concrete-encased cast-iron pipe has deteriorated significantly. Many access points are buried or obstructed.
- **Emergency Risk:** Any failure would require emergency repairs in a tidal environment, making containment and repair extremely difficult. The pipeline serves approximately 290 residential connections.

The City has partnered with BKF Engineers to conduct a technical Feasibility Study and Kearns & West for community engagement to inform the study. The study will evaluate several solutions, considering several factors including, but not limited to, technical feasibility, environmental impact, and cost.

Evaluation of the project alternatives is anticipated to be completed by mid-2026, and Richmond City Council will determine next steps based on evaluation findings. Approximate design and construction timelines will be communicated once a final alternative is selected.

### What is the Project Cost and How Will it be Paid For?

BKF Engineers is currently conducting a full evaluation of potential options to be presented to the City Council. This will include estimates for construction and ongoing maintenance costs for each alternative.

The City has allocated funding for the feasibility study and is exploring funding options for construction and ongoing maintenance. The City has not ruled out any funding sources, including state and federal grants and loan programs.

### What Criteria will be Used to Evaluate the Alternatives?

Alternatives will be analyzed and compared based on several criteria, including, but not limited to:

- Cost (including initial and long-term maintenance)
- Resiliency (power outages, floods, earthquakes, disasters)
- Permitting and regulatory requirements
- Implementation schedule and potential phasing options
- Construction disturbance and service disruption
- Geotechnical considerations

## Is Repairing or Relining the Current Pipeline Possible?

BKF is studying several rehabilitation options as part of the feasibility study, including Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) Lining, Traditional Sliplining and Fold and Form Sliplining. These options will be evaluated according to the criteria identified above.

## How Does the Feasibility Study Relate to the BayKeepers Lawsuit?

In 2006, Baykeeper brought an enforcement action against the City of Richmond over alleged violations of the Clean Water Act due to chronic overflows and discharges from Richmond's aging sewer system. The settlement reached requires the City to follow Federal and State law. The settlement is not specific to Keller Beach, but applies to the Citywide sewer system. Keller Beach is a component of the Citywide system. Any solution must be fully accessible, inspectable, maintainable, and repairable.

## How Does the Feasibility Study Relate to the City's Moratorium on Building Permits

A moratorium has been placed on the issuance of building permits for certain development activities requiring new connections to the KBSS in order for the City to evaluate remediation options and development alternatives in lieu of connection to the KBSS.

## Moratorium and Permits

### Why was a moratorium instituted?

To prevent additional strain on the failing infrastructure, the City Council adopted a moratorium on January 18, 2022, prohibiting new sewer connections until solutions are identified and implemented.

### How long will the moratorium last?

The moratorium was extended by Ordinance No. 09-25 N.S. on April 1, 2025, for 22 months and 15 days.

### What does the moratorium mean for property owners?

**Restricted:** Issuance of building permits for certain development activities requiring new connections to the KBSS

**Not Affected:** Existing homes and current sewer connections continue to operate normally

**Allowed:** Routine repairs and maintenance that don't require new sewer connections

## Community Engagement

### How can community input influence the project?

Community input is essential to the decision-making process. The City has emphasized that resident voices must be heard before final decisions are made. There will be multiple opportunities to weigh in on solution options throughout the study.

### How can I stay informed and provide feedback?

**Project Website:**

[www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4922/01C10-Keller-Beach-Sanitary-Sewer-Assess](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4922/01C10-Keller-Beach-Sanitary-Sewer-Assess)

View newsletter updates, project milestones, and timelines.

**Email Questions or Comments:**

[keller\\_beach-project@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:keller_beach-project@ci.richmond.ca.us)

**City Council and Community Meetings:**

Kearns & West will facilitate dedicated community meetings when key decisions require input. Presentations of Project deliverables will be presented at public City Council meetings, which can be attended in person or viewed online.

## Key Terms

**Interceptor:** The main sewer pipe that carries wastewater from smaller wastewater collection pipes to the larger regional system. At Keller Beach, this refers to the old concrete-encased cast-iron pipe built in 1959 running under the beach and tidal waters conveying wastewater to the Keller Beach Pump Station.

**Feasibility Study:** A planning phase analysis to evaluate potential solutions, considering elements such as technical requirements, environmental impacts, and costs.

For more information, visit the project website or email: [keller\\_beach-project@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:keller_beach-project@ci.richmond.ca.us)