

Bylaw Amendment “For” & “Against” Statements

Our areas of agreement are:

1. We all care about our water and we are all members, including the board.
2. We all rely on pure water and reasonable rates.
3. Our untreated water is a precious resource.
4. A vote adopting the amendment will need USDA approval.

Statements **For** this amendment, submitted by member Anne Herman:

- Sallal Water Association is a co-op. We, the members, own it. All members—not just the 7 board members—should make major decisions about our water.
- Water is Sallal’s main asset. It’s fine for the board to run the daily business, but decisions about our main asset should be put to a general vote of the members. (This amendment limits **only** the board’s power to make decisions about major transfers of water or water rights.)
- The board says a few people could use this amendment to serve special interests. There are clauses in this amendment intended to prevent that. It requires two meetings: one to discuss the proposed contract and another to vote. **Both meetings require notice to be sent to all members 30 days in advance.** (Each member will pay \$3.48 total for the two meetings: a small price for the power to decide what happens to our water.)
- The board feels they are more qualified than the members to make big decisions about our water. But some members have become experts on the proposed contract with North Bend and the consequences of signing or not signing it. They share their knowledge, offering a broader perspective. Then we all read, e-mail, post, and discuss. We members are coming to understand the issues.
- The board thinks members won’t care enough to cast informed votes. They underestimate us! At the meeting in March, 85 members attended to ask questions and participate. We are learning, and we care.

Statements **Against** this amendment, submitted by the Sallal Board of Trustees:

- This amendment sounds good at face value, but look deeper and you’ll find it is advocated for by a special interest group that seeks to prevent Sallal from providing water to new growth, thereby allowing the City to enter Sallal’s service area to serve that growth instead. This is already in process with the mule pasture.
- Section 2 of the proposal effectively puts major decisions in the hands of as few as 43 members. If approved, this amendment could allow for **Sallal to be controlled by a special interest group.** The membership elected board members to perform areas of their expertise for a reason. Do you want your water management in the hands of the people we have vetted and chosen to represent us, or a special interest group?
- The City would really like to take over Sallal in order to get our water rights to solve their mitigation problem. A special interest group would like to tie our hands by using this amendment to stop Sallal from buying water from the City. The amendment would effectively eliminate Sallal from serving growth, making us sitting ducks for the City.
- **Putting Sallal at risk of takeover is not the right way to try to fight growth.** Growth in the UGA will be served by the City if Sallal is unable to serve.
- Section 2 of this amendment requires a cumbersome and time consuming two-meeting process to present and vote on an issue (cost to members of around \$3,000 per meeting).