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Sallal Water Association strives to provide pure, untreated water at low cost to members.

November 2019 Newsletter

****We have an upcoming vacancy on the board. To apply, see our website for more information.***

Please submit questions/comments to admin@sallal.com

<p>Request of Members</p>	<p>It costs Sallal over \$28,000 a year in labor, supplies, and postage to mail bills. Currently over 75% of bills are mailed. <u>Please</u> send an e-mail to admin@sallal.com with the e-mail address you want to use and your account number, eliminating the need to send a paper bill. Thank you!</p>
<p>UTRC and the Mule Pasture</p>	<p>In May of 2018, Sallal issued a water availability certificate for Phase 1 of the Mule Pasture project (apartment complex) and a conditional water certificate for Phase 2 of the project. The condition was that Sallal and North Bend would enter into a water exchange contract. Sallal did not have enough water rights to serve all development proposed for the Mule Pasture without the contract.</p> <p>On October 25, 2018, in response to an appeal filed by Friends of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and River, the City of North Bend Hearings Examiner ruled that the project could not move forward until both phases had unconditional certificates for water from a single purveyor.</p> <p>On April 1, 2019, the Mule Pasture developer (Cedar River Partners) filed an appeal with the King County Utility Technical Review Committee (UTRC) to request that the County find that “water service is not available in a timely and reasonable manner” from Sallal for its project, and to exclude it from Sallal's service area. The purpose of the appeal was to allow the developer to pursue water service from the City of North Bend.</p> <p>Sallal provided a written “Statement of Defense” and conceded that it had insufficient water rights to serve the entire project but advised the UTRC and the parties that it was working to recover some unused water certificates in order to obtain the needed water rights capacity to serve it, that it remained hopeful of entering into a contract with the City, and therefore, the situation could change.</p> <p>On July 12, 2019, Sallal informed the UTRC that it had been able to retrieve unused water certificates and now had the ability to serve both phases of the project.</p> <p>Regardless, on August 9, 2019, the UTRC issued a final determination that Sallal did not provide “timely” service and granted the developer’s request to have the parcel removed from Sallal’s service area. Pursuant to consultation with legal counsel, Sallal did not appeal. However, Friends of the Snoqualmie Trail and River appealed the decision to the King County Hearing Examiner – not because it supported Sallal’s position, but to contest water service to the project from the City. A decision from the Hearing Examiner is expected shortly.</p> <p>Sallal is disappointed with the possibility that the City may be able to extend a water main through Sallal’s service area to provide water to this development. However, if that line is built and based on present facts and law, the City would have no right to serve other parcels from the new water main.</p>

	<p>Contrary to misinformation posted on local social media, Sallal will not allow the City of North Bend to take over any of Sallal’s existing customers. It is possible that Sallal could lose other parts of its service area to new development if it can’t meet the timely and reasonable standard for service.</p> <p>The Board has both long and short-term strategies to protect Sallal’s rights to serve its members and we appreciate members support in staying focused on the best interests of the Association. Details can be found at: https://sallal.com/utrc-information/</p>
<p>Statistics, Usage, and Demographics Project</p>	<p>Volunteer members of the Sallal Member Advisory Committee (MAC) are working on a project to bring information to members regarding water usage and generalized member statistics with the goal of promoting awareness and conservation.</p> <p>Subject to MAC review and Board & GM approval, we hope that the following information will be available on Sallal’s website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sallal’s water production & usage by year and season. • Tallies of total members and areas of general concentration. <p>More research is needed on the new billing software, but we are investigating whether Sallal will be able to include the following data on each member’s monthly bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member monthly usage compared to the average membership usage. • Rolling annual bar chart of individual usage – similar to the bar chart found on Tanner Electric monthly bills.
<p>King County Franchise Fee Litigation Update</p>	<p>In 2016, the County passed an ordinance to charge water, sewer, gas and electrical utilities with rent for using County rights of way. In 2018, a judge struck down the ordinance, but the County appealed to the Washington State Supreme Court. Oral argument before the Court occurred on September 16th of this year at the State Supreme Court, but it could be 4-6 months before a decision is issued.</p> <p>If the ordinance is upheld, utilities (including Sallal) may be back-charged for rent. We will continue to provide updates as they are available.</p> <p>Details can be found at: https://sallal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/KC-proposed-ordinance-update-040119.pdf</p>
<p>Removing Chlorine from your Water</p>	<p>Please see our new editorial from member Stephen Kangas on various ways you could reduce the chlorine taste and smell in the water in your home.</p> <p>Details can be found at: : https://sallal.com/chlorine-filter-information/</p>
<p>Member Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Sallal’s Member Advisory Committee has openings! If you are interested in helping advise the Sallal Board, are a member in good standing, are able to attend the monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and are prepared to put the best interests of the Association first, please send your letter of interest and a short Bio to Ted@sallal.com to be considered.</p>