

December 2020 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to admin@sallal.com

New Business Manager	<p>Please welcome Nikka Rose as Sallal's new Business Manager! Nikka will oversee all office administration as well as billing, budgeting, and finance operations. She can be reached at Nikka@sallal.com.</p>			
Rate Changes	<p>The second phase of the rate study has been completed by a highly qualified rate consultant and was presented at the November 17th board meeting. This phase provided a review of the rate structure to match the current water usage patterns for Sallal. We learned that revenue is not meeting operating expenses, meaning we will need to increase revenue through rates. Additionally, as explained in previous newsletters, amortization will need to increase to cover new capital projects. In January, the Board will be voting on a \$1.41 increase to the base rate, a 16% increase to usage rates, and the first of a few increases in amortization of 11.6% (to \$14) starting in early spring. Phase 3 of the study will review and update the connection fees.</p>			
Project Update	<p>Construction work for a new reservoir and a new supply well continues. These facilities should be in operation in the late spring. The new office/shop building at our Edgewick site should go out to bid in early 2021 and will take about 1-year for construction.</p>			
Contract with the City	<p>Last summer, the Sallal Board approved an \$18K engineering study that was intended to determine how much mitigation water we could sell to the City and how much drinking water we can physically purchase from the City.</p> <p>Over the last month, the City of North Bend has said both in public documents and in private conversations with us that it is the City's perspective that negotiations on a water supply contract between the City and Sallal ended some time over the summer. To be clear, even though Sallal continued work necessary to refine the terms of a potential agreement, the City decided on its own that negotiations had ended.</p> <p>Given this new information, the Sallal Board has suspended the \$18K engineering study in order to preserve funds until we have a viable reason to resume the study.</p>			
Billing Questions and Issues	<p>Due to the pandemic and Governor proclamation, Sallal is not charging penalties nor pursuing any shutoffs for non-payment. However, we are all reliant on one another to pay our water bills so that the Association can continue operating on a sound basis. We are seeing many people who are not paying their bills, and this will result in the accrual of large account balances and possible shutoffs once the Governor's order for the pandemic is lifted. This would be an unfortunate outcome that we would like to help you avoid, so please contact us to make payment arrangements now.</p> <p>Several programs are available to low-income residents of King County. If you need help, please contact:</p> <table data-bbox="292 1885 1560 1980"> <tr> <td data-bbox="292 1885 552 1980"> <p>HOPELINK hope-link.org (800) 348-7144</p> </td> <td data-bbox="560 1885 909 1980"> <p>SALVATION ARMY salvationarmynw.org (206) 217-1297</p> </td> <td data-bbox="917 1885 1560 1980"> <p>KING COUNTY VETERANS BUREAU kingcounty.gov/socialservices/veterans.aspx (206) 296-7656</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>HOPELINK hope-link.org (800) 348-7144</p>	<p>SALVATION ARMY salvationarmynw.org (206) 217-1297</p>	<p>KING COUNTY VETERANS BUREAU kingcounty.gov/socialservices/veterans.aspx (206) 296-7656</p>
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