

## January 2021 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to [admin@sallal.com](mailto:admin@sallal.com)

<p><b>Rate Changes</b></p>	<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 voted to approve a \$1.41 increase to the base rate, a 16.6% increase to usage rates, and the first of a few increases in amortization of 11.6% (to \$14) to take effect March 1. The typical household can expect to see an increase of around \$6-\$7 a month on their bill because of these rate changes.</p> <p>Phase 3 of the rate study will review and update the connection fees.</p>
<p><b>Power Outage</b></p>	<p>A windstorm took out power to most of North Bend in the early hours of January 13<sup>th</sup> and Sallal's 12-year-old in-line generator kicked in to keep the water flowing. But that evening, our Superintendent arrived at the Rattlesnake Wells pump house to find our generator had reached its end of useful life. We have a portable back-up generator, but it isn't powerful enough to run Wells 1 &amp; 2.</p> <p>While we searched for a rental generator (at 200kW, imagine something the size of a single horse trailer), we asked members over social media to conserve water so that the water stored in our reservoirs would be enough to last through the night. Our Superintendent quickly got a rental generator in place, which ran all night and into the next day to replenish our reservoirs. But that next evening (January 14<sup>th</sup>), the rental generator stopped working. By the time we were able to post to social media to ask folks to conserve again, Puget Sound Energy had restored full power to our Rattlesnake Wells, and everything has been running as expected since then.</p> <p>We have secured another rented generator to keep at the pump house on a monthly basis until we can purchase a new permanent generator. A new generator costs somewhere between \$90-150K, so our Superintendent and Engineer will be doing their due diligence before we make that purchase. The Board appreciates the Sallal field staff for being diligent and taking the extra precautions and time to check the system during storms to assure the water system is running properly for our members.</p> <p>Thank you for your support during our brief request for members to conserve!</p>
<p><b>Annual Members Meeting</b></p>	<p>The annual meeting of Sallal's membership will be held on March 30, 2021 at 7 p.m. Two board members are up for reelection and those positions will be voted on by the members at this meeting. The full notes and agenda will be mailed to all members at least two weeks prior to the meeting, along with the details of how to attend virtually or by phone.</p>
<p><b>Board Elections</b></p>	<p>Two Board members are up for re-election at the March 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Meeting. Trustees serve a three-year term once voted in. If you would like to compete for one</p>

	<p>of those two positions and can dedicate at least 10 hours a month to Board service, please submit a bio to <a href="mailto:Nikka@sallal.com">Nikka@sallal.com</a> or mail to Sallal Water Association Attn: Board Elections, PO Box 378, North Bend, WA 98045.</p> <p>Your submittal must be received by Sallal no later than 4 p.m. on February 16, 2021 to be on the ballot for the March 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Meeting.</p>			
<p><b>Water System Plan Status Update</b></p>	<p>Sallal’s draft Water System Plan has been reviewed by the King County Utilities Technical Review Committee (UTRC), the committee within King County tasked with giving recommendations to the King County Council on Water System Plans. At their January meeting, Sallal received a recommendation from the UTRC that the King County Council approve our Water System Plan. The next and final steps will be to receive approval from the County Council and Department of Health.</p>			
<p><b>Billing Questions and Issues</b></p>	<p>We ask for your patience as we migrate our billing to a new system over the next two months. The new system will have additional features that we expect to be beneficial to members, but in the short term, we may experience technical difficulties, errors, or delays and we appreciate your understanding during this time of transition.</p> <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="298 1268 1549 1381"> <tr> <td data-bbox="298 1268 503 1381"> <p>HOPELINK hope-link.org (800) 348-7144</p> </td> <td data-bbox="600 1268 876 1381"> <p>SALVATION ARMY salvationarmynw.org (206) 217-1297</p> </td> <td data-bbox="966 1268 1549 1381"> <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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