

## February 2021 Newsletter

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

<p><b>Rate Change Reminder</b></p>	<p>This is a reminder that rates increase beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. The base rate increases by \$1.41 per month and usage rates increase by a comparable 16.6% across all tiers. In addition, the first of a few increases in amortization will also take effect, raising that rate by 11.6% to \$14 per month.. The typical household can expect to see an increase of around \$6-\$7 per month in their bills because of these rate changes. Please see the January newsletter for more details.</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>Is Sallal Out of Water?</b></p>	<p>Sallal is <u>not</u> out of water. We have not denied any credible and compliant requests for certificates of water over the last year. We were asked informally by the current owner of the future National Guard property if we could provide around 400 Equivalent Residential Units (ERU’s) for a possible National Guard facility near Truck Town and we responded that we did not have that many ERU’s available that were not already spoken for. The developer then used that exchange to convince the Utilities Technical Review Committee of King County to remove the development from Sallal’s service area.</p> <p>Our engineer has determined that, at the growth rates expected by King County and the City, Sallal has enough water availability to continue to serve expected growth in our service area through 2030. These large developments are unusual and difficult to predict or plan for. We will need to either buy water from the City or get an additional water permit from the State to serve new connections beyond 2030 or for any large developments if we want to avoid a moratorium. A moratorium would mean an increase in rates (due to getting no more new connection fees) and could be a significant obstacle to getting our next Water System Plan approved in 2031.</p>
<p><b>Water System Plan Status Update</b></p>	<p>The Department of Health approved Sallal’s Water System Plan on February 16<sup>th</sup>! We want to thank our engineers, staff, and members who worked hard to develop and review this document. We have a solid plan to guide our system’s operation and growth over the next 10 years. The King County Council must still formally accept the conclusions made by the Utilities and Technical Review Committee that our plan is consistent with the County’s land use planning policies. This will happen over the next month or two. However, the Department of Health’s approval means that Sallal has complied with state regulations for water system planning.</p>
<p><b>Negotiations with the City</b></p>	<p>Last summer, the Sallal Board approved an \$18K engineering study to determine how much mitigation water we could sell to the City along with how much drinking water for our members we can physically purchase from the City.</p>

	<p>Negotiations and work on a water supply contract stopped between November and January. However, following a meeting in early February, Sallal and the City agreed to explore whether further discussions can resolve concerns in the following areas: the City’s water conservation ordinance where it impacts Sallal members; the City’s new ordinance that requires Sallal to provide usage data to the City of members that live within the City’s limits; the Franchise agreement that the City recently required Sallal to obtain; and the water supply contract between the two parties.</p> <p>In a demonstration of good faith, the Sallal Board subsequently decided to resume the engineering study while the city decided to resume engineering work on providing calculations for anticipated mitigation water demands.</p>			
<p><b>Tips from Members</b></p>	<p>A member recently discovered that all toilets in his home had some degree of leakage at the flapper valve inside the tank. He suggests other members could save money on their water bill by checking for same issues in their homes and asked to share this information with members. Along with saving you money, fixing leaks like this is a quick and easy way all Sallal members can help achieve our water conservation goals. According to the EPA, leaks in an average household can waste nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year. Check out the following website for additional ideas about fixing small leaks: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week">https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week</a></p>			
<p><b>Billing Questions and Issues</b></p>	<p>We ask for your patience as we finish implementing our new billing system over the next month. 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 1499 1547 1612"> <tr> <td data-bbox="298 1499 503 1612"> <p>HOPELINK hope-link.org (800) 348-7144</p> </td> <td data-bbox="602 1499 876 1612"> <p>SALVATION ARMY salvationarmynw.org (206) 217-1297</p> </td> <td data-bbox="967 1499 1547 1612"> <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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