

July 2022 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to admin@sallal.com.

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| <p>Emergency Moratorium</p> | <p>The Board voted at its June 21, 2022, regular meeting to initiate an emergency moratorium on new water connections for up to six months while we complete an in-depth review. Data from 2021 showed anomalous high water usage that could be due to leaks, malfunctioning meters, unusually hot weather and multiple instances of draining the new reservoir while trying to make it watertight. This high usage from 2021 suggests that we may be approaching our water right limit sooner than expected. The investigation we conduct over the next six months will focus on determining if we have truly reached our certificated limit for water usage.</p> <p>A public meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 at 6 p.m. at 44021 Tanner Road, Suite E, North Bend WA 98045 at which time the Board of Trustees will hear comments regarding this action. Non-members may participate. Before year end, the Board of Trustees will decide to continue, modify or discontinue the interim moratorium, make the moratorium permanent until additional water rights are obtained, determine the method by which the Association will grant additional commitments for connections if any are determined to be available and make any other determination that it deems appropriate or necessary. A remote call-in or log-in feature is offered here and on our website:</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83760809759?pwd=TFBkcUVRS2pvU2ZtWHBlazkweitsZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 837 6080 9759 Passcode: 613695 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)</p> |
| <p>How Rates May Change in the Future Without New Connections</p> | <p>Sallal's capital projects plan calls for roughly \$7M (current dollars) in capital spending over the next 8-10 years to replace aging water system facilities. These projects, which include replacing pipes that have reached the end of their useful life, are necessary to ensure proper operation of our system for all members. We currently have roughly \$8M in capital reserves. With the remaining water from our existing water rights only able to accommodate a limited number of new connections, and if Sallal is unable to obtain additional water supply, funding for capital improvements in the coming years will need to be reevaluated to determine how much capital project funds will need to come from monthly water rates. Water system capacity analysis will continue to refine our remaining water right capacity. Cost analysis and financial planning will be ongoing as capital projects are scheduled. Updates on these evaluations will be provided to Sallal members.</p> |
| <p>Water Quality Report for 2021</p> | <p>Our Water Quality Report for 2021 has been mailed to all members (either email or postal service) and is also available on our website at: https://sallal.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2021-Water-Quality-Report.pdf</p> |

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| <p>Backflow And Cross-Connects</p> | <p>If you are required to have an annual backflow prevention inspection, you will receive notification from Sallal in the mail. Completed inspections are due by July 31st.</p> <p>A cross connection is any connection to the public water supply that can allow contaminants to enter the system. This can happen if water from a facility, home, or irrigation system flows backwards into the distribution system. Properly operating backflow devices prevent this flow reversal and protects Sallal’s water from contamination.</p> <p>The Safe Water Drinking Act of 1974 and the Washington Administration Code 246-290-490 requires all public water systems in Washington State to operate an on-going Cross Connection Control Program to protect the public water supply from contamination from possible cross-connections. The Sallal Water Association adopted a cross-connection control program in 1998 with the goal of premise isolation. The Association is not responsible for eliminating or controlling contamination sources within the customers’ water systems. The goal of the Association’s Cross Connection Control Program is to prevent non-potable water from returning into the public water system.</p> <p>Sallal staff evaluate all residential and commercial connections we serve to determine the need for backflow protection based on regulatory requirements as well as the appropriate type of backflow prevention required. The Association has the right to deny service to any member who does not install a required backflow device or if the member does not complete the annual testing on the backflow device. Annual notices are sent to all property owners that have or are required to have a premise isolation backflow device, reminding them of the annual testing requirements. More information on Backflow and Cross-Connections as well as a list of certified testers is available on the Sallal Website at: https://sallal.com/backflow-and-cross-connect-information/</p> |
| <p>King County Franchise Fee</p> | <p>Please do your part to stop the County from charging rent to utilities for using public right of way to install and operate essential services such as water, sewer and electricity. After having been denied the right to impose a public utility tax by the state legislature, the County is attempting an end-around by charging utilities with rent. If successful, utility bills will increase.</p> <p>Email the King County Council Representative, Sarah Perry at sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov</p> <p>For a sample email of what to say, please go to our website.</p> |