

# The H2Water Spout

Issue 14, VOL. 2

Public Water System ID# 08236M

Nov 2011

## Holiday Hideaway Association and Water Company Board of Directors

Sharon Schlittenhard  
Anne Casperson  
Laura Saunders  
Bill Rainwater  
Larry Bohall  
David McKibben  
Kit Harma

**Our next Annual meeting is  
scheduled for April 21, 2012.**

[www.hha.octopia.com](http://www.hha.octopia.com)  
Office: 360-299-4535

## RATE INCREASE

For the first time, the HHA water company will be increasing usage rates effective January 1, 2012. The increase will help offset the increase to our costs for goods and services; and will continue generating a consistent revenue surplus that is earmarked for capital improvements.

The new rates will be calculated by the end of November and we will get the exact rate out to you with the bill you receive in January. We anticipate an increase of about 4%.

The new rates will be reflected on your February billing (your first billing after the increase becomes effective).



## WATER USE EFFICIENCY GOAL SET

Our first Water Use Efficiency Goal has been set. It states that for this year, the management goal is to maintain the current level of efficiency until 2012. At our Association Membership meeting on July 2, 2011 the members set a customer goal to maintain our current level of efficiency at Holiday Hideaway Water to help ensure that you and your neighbors have sufficient water well into the future.

Taking care of leaky faucets and toilets is important here, too. Be sure to repair any leaks immediately. Not only will it save water, it will save you money on your water bills. You are responsible for the high-balance bills you receive when you have a leak.

IT CAN BECOME VERY EXPENSIVE.



## In This Issue:

Water Use Efficiency Goal	1
Upcoming Rate Increase	1
New Water Shares	2
Certified Operator	2
Winterize Now	3
Groundwater Protection	4, 5
Seawater Intrusion	6

Leak this Size	Loss per Day Gallons	Loss per Month Gallons	Loss per Year Gallons	Your Cost Per year
●	120	3,600	<b>43,200</b>	<b>\$173.26</b>
●	360	10,800	<b>129,600</b>	<b>\$519.79</b>
●	693	20,790	<b>249,480</b>	<b>\$1000.59</b>
●	1,200	36,000	<b>423,000</b>	<b>\$1696.52</b>

## NEW WATER SHARES

As part of the approval process for the Tank AT2 project, we are required to seek additional sources of water in order to have sufficient supplies to serve every one of the lots within our service area boundaries. At this time, that includes 125 lots that have no water share or service.

We still have 10 new water shares available for purchase. When we complete Tank AT2 construction, we will begin the second phase of upgrading the system (Tank AT1) and ask the Department of Health to approve 7 more shares. When those seven shares are sold (if we get them), **there will be no more shares available for an unknown period of time...possibly as long as 10 years...maybe never.**

In order to supply more water, we need to look outside of our own aquifer (natural underground storage). We are looking for properties in the valley north of us that may have sufficient water available for us. We would then have to purchase that property or lease the property from the current owners and drill a well. We would also need to install a pipeline from the new well to our storage and distribution system and, depending upon the distance, this may be so expensive that we will be unable to use this strategy.

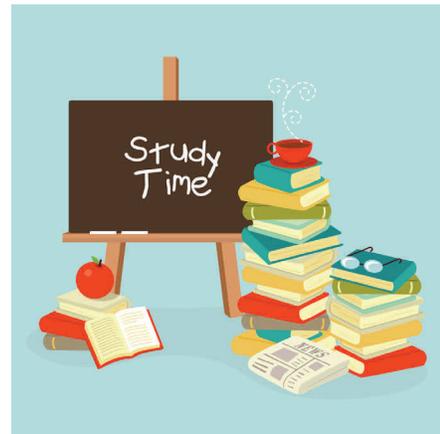


We would then be forced to look at the possibility of converting sea water to fresh water, which is very costly to build and to operate.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OPERATING THE WATER SYSTEM?

If any of you are interested in studying the regulations and learning how to operate our water system, we would like to hear from you.

We would like to have one or two additional people who live on the island as certified operators to cover vacations and days off. Along with studying and passing the exam, you would need to work with our current Operator to learn the intricacies of the system and what to do in case of an emergency.



Once you have passed the exam you will be required to take 30 hours of classes every three years for continuing education credits.

Currently the number of working hours ranges from 20 to 40 hours per month. There are no benefits offered.

The Operator of Record is on-call 24-hours a day/7-days a week. The relief Operator is on call for days off and during vacation times.

State Requirements can be found on the web at [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw) and click on Operator Certification.

E-mail Cas at [info@hhwater.org](mailto:info@hhwater.org) if you are interested



## WINTERIZE NOW

Now is the time to prepare your home and grounds for winter – don't forget to winterize your water pipes, too.

### **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIGH WATER BILLS CAUSED BY FROZEN PIPES.**

There are no account adjustments for **NEGLECT**.

If you plan to be off-island for the winter you must turn off your water service at the meter; open a faucet or two long enough to drain the water from your pipes; wrap all exterior or exposed pipes with heat tape or insulation of some sort and tape it down. I wrap my exterior pipes with foam pipe insulation from the hardware store, then an old towel, cover that with a plastic trash bag, to keep the towel from getting wet, and tape the bag securely so the wind and rain can't get in.

If you have already flown the coop and didn't turn off your water before you left, please contact a neighbor who is home and ask them if they could do you the favor; or contact the Business office for assistance. **Remember, frozen pipes thaw out and create enormous leaks. That not only costs you money on your water bill, but it squanders our most fragile Holiday Hideaway resource – good quality drinking water.** Over-pumping the aquifer could result in Sea Water Intrusion and, as you know, sea water is destructive to many things, including our well water and your plumbing and appliances.

The requirement to turn off your water when away from the island over-night or longer is now part of our Policy and is reflected in our revised Water Connection Agreement.

Wrapping your exterior pipes is a must if you stay home all winter, too; one really hard freeze (like the week before Thanksgiving last year) could spell disaster for you and a serious loss of water for all of your neighbors. During winter of 2006 someone had a pipe break and run for a week before it was discovered...they had a \$2000.00 water bill to pay.

### **If you will be gone overnight or longer,**

### **PLEASE, TURN OFF YOUR WATER AT THE METER**

You never know when your plumbing may spring a leak or when an appliance like your hot water tank, a toilet tank or even a faucet might develop a drip. If you do not have a "key" or valve wrench to turn off your water, you may purchase one at Sebo's for a nominal price.



It is easy to turn off and then on again, even for those who may think they are "mechanically challenged".

If you do need help, please contact the Business Office for assistance.—360-299-4535

## GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Not only does Holiday Hideaway need to participate in Water Use Efficiency as part of the regulations, and be mindful of Seawater Intrusion, but we must also remember that our little island is the ONLY source of drinking water available to us unless we treat seawater with a reverse osmosis filtering system. We must help protect our groundwater and all the groundwater on the island.

### What is the sanitary control area?

Our wells are most susceptible to contamination from the immediate surrounding area. This area is called the sanitary control area. Department of Health requires water systems to maintain a sanitary control area of 100 feet around wells, and 200 feet around springs. The sanitary control area is part of a larger drainage basin called the source water or wellhead protection area. This area collects and transports water and potential contaminants to our drinking water sources.

The sanitary control area is the first line of defense to prevent contaminants from entering our drinking water system. We must control and monitor our sanitary control area regularly to ensure land uses and activities do not threaten our drinking water source. In the long run, prevention costs much less than finding a new source or installing treatment.

### Sanitary control area protection

We must maintain legal and physical control of the sanitary control area. This means the Water Company should either own the land around our water sources, or have an easement or covenant limiting land uses around them. It also means that we must not allow potential contaminant sources within the sanitary control area.

If we can't avoid or remove potential contaminant threats, we may be required to:

1. Take steps to lessen the severity of the threat.
2. Increase water quality monitoring.
3. Install treatment.
4. Find a new drinking water source.

## Department of Health considers four factors when evaluating potential contaminant sources :

1. The nature of the potential contamination, and the risk of release.
2. Source construction details including well depth, source construction, subsurface geology, and other factors that would protect the source from contamination.
3. Distance from the potential contaminant source to the drinking water source.
4. Other relevant information.

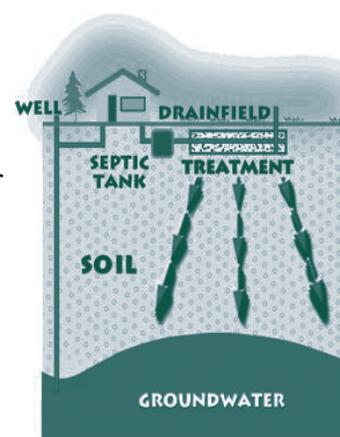
We have developed a source water or wellhead protection plan to protect our drinking water sources from contamination and loss of supply. The plan defines the protection area, identifies potential contaminant sources, and includes management strategies to prevent contamination and loss of supply.

### Outhouses are illegal no matter where they are located.

### *Failing septic tanks can affect ground water quality.*

### **Sewer and Septic Systems**

Sewer lines, drain fields, septic tanks and outhouses could leak and contaminate our drinking water source. Severe illness and even death can occur as a result. Therefore, preventing this type of contamination is one of our highest priorities.



### **Ways to prevent or minimize the risk of contamination include:**

Remove the threat from our sanitary control area, if possible.

(continued on page 5)

## **GROUNDWATER PROTECTION**

(CON'T FROM PAGE 4)

### ***Hazardous Materials***

Businesses, homeowners and water system personnel may use, store, and dispose of hazardous wastes and materials. These include gasoline or diesel fuel, used motor oil, heating oil, cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. If they accidentally enter your drinking water supply, these hazardous wastes and materials are dangerous to public health.

1. The nature of the potential contamination, and the risk of release.
2. Source construction details including well depth, source construction, subsurface geology, and other factors that would protect the source from contamination.
3. Distance from the potential contaminant source to the drinking water source.
4. Other relevant information.

### **To prevent or minimize contamination in the sanitary control area:**

1. Remove containers storing chemicals.
2. Prohibit disposal or application of hazardous waste or materials.
3. Install double-walled storage tanks, or provide other secondary containment.
4. Install permanent on-site leak detection equipment.

### ***Landfills and Dumps***

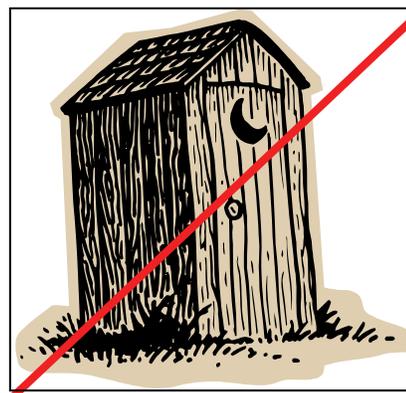
Garbage contains pathogens, bacteria, nutrients, and hazardous materials, such as solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, and paints. Leaks from landfills, dumps, and dumpsters could threaten nearby drinking water sources. Even properly constructed municipal landfills could leach hazardous materials, causing a plume or large area of contamination that could eventually reach your drinking water source.

### **To prevent or minimize contamination:**

1. Site drinking water sources at least 1,000 feet away from landfills.
2. Remove dumpsters from your sanitary control area.

Common burial practices use formaldehyde for embalming. Studies show that cemeteries may leach these chemicals into groundwater, posing a cancer threat.

### ***Animal Waste, Pens, Feed Lots, and Dead Animals***



**OUTHOUSES ARE ILLEGAL**

If you see evidence of animals in our sanitary control area, be concerned. Animal waste (including human waste from outhouses) and dead animals could contaminate our source with bacteria and nutrients, and make our customers ill. To prevent or minimize contamination:

1. Keep animals out of your sanitary control area. Use fences or other means.
2. Install linings and walls around waste-holding ponds.
3. Increase coliform monitoring so you can detect problems early.
4. Install disinfection treatment (with a CT of 6 according to agency requirements).

(continued on page 6)

### ***Groundwater Protection*** (con't from page 5)

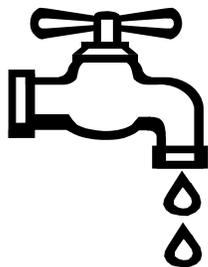
Another factor that is important about protecting our groundwater is preventing the intrusion of sea water into our wells. As we have stated before, if we pump too much water or pump water too quickly from our wells, the sea water will be drawn into the aquifer and sit like a lens on top of the fresh water. Then our pumps will be sucking up the sea water into storage, not fresh water, and distributing it throughout the system. The sea water is not only non-drinkable, it destroys our pipes and pumps as well as your pipes and appliances.

We must all be very diligent about keeping our water usage below the maximum allowable 342 gallons per day per household.

Our wells are equipped with automated controls and data logging system to shut down the well pumps in the event that the water levels in the wells drop below 1/2 foot above sea level.

We test for conductivity (salt water conducts electricity more readily than fresh water) and chlorides during the high water use months of each year to make sure that we are not beginning to draw sea water into the aquifer.

**Holiday Hideaway Water**  
**7885 Guemes Island Road # 36**  
**Anacortes, WA 98221**



**DRINKING WATER IS PRECIOUS**