



# S.S. WATER NEWS

Summer 2017

SS Water Supply Corp.  
10393 US Hwy 87 W.  
P.O. Box 1000  
La Vernia, Tx 78121  
(830) 779-2837

## Ready for Filtered Water?

As many of you already know, even though we have an excellent water source, naturally occurring iron in our water, which can cause discoloration, has been something we have had to deal with for years. Currently, we sequester the iron in our water using a safe and effective agent that mixes with the water to protect the iron in the water from oxidizing; creating crystal clear water. The required chlorine that we use to disinfect the water, is an oxidizer. The sequestering agent causes some of the iron to adhere to the inside of the PVC pipe. Once there is a change in velocity or volume, typically during peak usage days or a main break, the iron deposits will break loose causing the discoloration. You can find out more information by visiting our website and reading the document "Understanding Iron in Groundwater."

Another method to use instead of a sequestering agent is to filter the water and with the amount of water we pump on a day-to-day basis, filtering would be more ideal. Over the past three years, the Board of Directors have been preparing financially to begin the expensive task of building filtration plants. To date, we have \$750,000 set aside for the start of this project. We have used about one-third of these funds and recently purchased a large piece of property on CR 319 that surrounds our pump station. There will be three filter sites and each site has an estimated price tag of \$1.5 million each. We are presently in the early design stages of our first filter location.

We are excited about this new project, but also realize that there are some financial responsibilities that will accompany it. Simply put; filtered water is more expensive water. It takes more energy, more water, more pumps, and more staff to deliver filtered water. Therefore, we are proposing a rate increase to accommodate this project along with many other line and pump upgrades and future well-sites that are needed in our system. We could finance these projects with a loan, but the Board of Directors do not want our members to carry this burden of paying the principal and interest over a long period of time.

With the current rates, the filtration system could be built in 7-12 years, however; with a rate increase the project is anticipated to be completed in 2-5 years. If we continue to postpone this project, with the rate of construction costs increasing at an average of 30% per year, we may never be able to afford filtration. The Board of Directors agree that a rate increase at this time and continuing the accelerated project plan is the right thing to do and the best decision for our Corporation and it's Membership. The rate increase is proposed to begin October 1, 2017.

We appreciate our membership and want to hear your voice. This is your water and your system. We encourage you to send us your comments or visit us at our office regarding this very important rate increase. Please see the back of this newsletter for more information on the proposed rates.

### Did you know.....?

- SS Water supplies water to the rural residents of La Vernia, Sutherland Springs, Adkins, and Floresville.
- The Corporation began in 1971 by a group of residents who wanted a better source of water for the rural area.
- We are member owned, which means the property owner owns the meter and is the responsible party for the meter and water usage on the property, even if the property is a rental.
- Members (a.k.a. Customers) are all part of the entire Corporation and each own a tiny piece of the pie. Therefore, each member has a voice and each member has a right to be part of the Corporation Board Meetings and Elections.
- SS Water started with a few thousand feet of pipe, one well, and a handful of customers.
- Today, SS Water supplies water to over 5,500 metered customers, has about 360 miles of pipeline and pumps 5.7 billion gallons of safe, potable water each year.
- This system is governed by a Board of 9 individuals who represent the membership of the Corporation.
- We have an Operations Staff of 11, and they do it all, from fixing pipe to mowing grass and everything in between.
- We have an Office Staff of 7 who process payments, maintain our billing system, mail bills, update the website, keep accurate records, provide customer service, complete proper mandated paperwork and makes sure that the office operates effectively and efficiently.
- Management Staff include Herb Williams, General Manager (13 years at Corp.), Napoleon Cervantes, Operations Foreman (22 years at Corp.), and Cynthia Raleigh, Office Manager (a little over a year at the Corp.)
- Over \$2.8 Million Dollars have been spent in FY 2016-17 for improvement of lines, pumps, and wells.
- We are financially sound and completely Debt Free!

## Proposed Rate Increase – Effective October 1, 2017

### The Facts:

- All rates collected from Conservation Rates help fund Capital Improvement Projects
- Last Rate Increase was June, 2015
- Standard Rate increase required to cover fixed operating expenses.
- Usage Rate increase will cover increases in water production costs and help fund filtration.
- Our rates, even with increase are one of the lowest in our region.

	Current	Proposed *7.55%	Gallons
Standard Meter	\$27.15	\$29.20	2,000
1" Meter	\$71.10	\$76.41	5,000
1.5" Meter	\$136.50	\$146.70	10,000
2" Meter	\$271.50	\$291.78	20,000
Usage Rates		**11.14%	
2,001 – 15,000	\$2.70	\$3.00	Per 1,000gallons
*15,001 – 30,000	\$4.04	\$4.50	“
*30,001 – 50,000	\$5.26	\$5.85	“
*50,001 - 75,000	\$7.10	\$7.90	“
*75,001 – 100,000	\$9.94	\$11.06	“
*Over 100,000	\$14.41	\$16.04	“

### Bulk Water Rates for Commercial Customers w/ 1-1/2 meters or larger:

0-50,000	\$3.00/1,000 gal
50,001-100,000	\$7.30/1,000 gal
100,001-200,000	\$9.72/1,000 gal
Over 200,000	\$16.04/1,000 gal

Directors will be taking action on this proposal at the September 11, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting. Comments will be accepted in person, by mail, or at [customer.service@sswater.net](mailto:customer.service@sswater.net) or by phone.

Gallons Used	Your bill Now	Your bill after Increase	Monthly Increase	Daily Increase	East Central Rates	Crystal Clear Rates	Spring Hill Rates	Oak Hills Rates	Sunko Rates
3,000	\$29.85	\$32.20	\$2.35	\$.08	\$45.15	\$56.48	\$50.75	\$27.20	\$36.50
11,000*	\$51.45	\$56.20	\$4.75	\$.16	\$102.75	\$114.47	\$87.50	\$42.00	\$59.50
15,000	\$62.25	\$68.20	\$5.95	\$.20	\$126.95	\$141.11	\$105.50	\$52.00	\$77.00
25,000	\$102.65	\$113.20	\$10.55	\$.35	\$202.95	\$254.71	\$156.75	\$108.00	\$119.50
50,000	\$228.05	\$252.70	\$24.65	\$.82	\$444.38	\$563.71	\$313.00	\$269.00	\$257.00
100,000	\$654.05	\$726.70	\$72.65	\$2.42	\$855.76	\$1,086.21	\$638.00	\$519.00	\$582.00

\*Average household use on our system.



### Conservation Measures Mandatory Watering Schedule

SSWSC practices year round watering restrictions as part of our conservation program required by the Texas Water Development Board. All water systems are required to complete/update a Conservation Plan every 5 years. To preserve our water source and conserve water for future generations we have certain parameters in place that include special watering days based on your address. Watering is always prohibited between 10 am and 8 pm. This is because most of the water used to irrigate during this time will evaporate and be wasted. Water early mornings and during the night.



#### Watering Schedule

Addresses Ending in Even Numbers (0,2,4,6,8) Sundays & Thursdays

Addresses Ending in Odd Numbers (1,3,5,7,9)  
Saturdays & Wednesdays

Hand held watering of landscape is always permitted.

**We are enforcing these restrictions because every drop counts!**

### Doing Good Things to Make Us Even Better!

Recently Completed/In Progress Projects:

- Deer Park Pump Station Expansion (Complete)
- County Road 319 24" Water Main Upgrade (Complete)
- County Road 319 Pump Improvement Project (85% Complete)
- Water Street 6" Main Upgrade (30% Complete)



### Our Folks do some GREAT WORK:

- Our Annual Audit was perfect!
- We passed our recent TCEQ Inspection with flying colors!
- We have made almost all of our forms digital online. Eliminate the trip!
- Our staff has over 150 years of combined water, water management, and water infrastructure experience.

**“SSWSC is proud of their system and it shows!” – TCEQ Inspector, April 2017**



Sign up for Paperless Billing!  
Sign up for Text Alerts and always be in the know!

[www.sswater.net](http://www.sswater.net)

