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From: Kristen Wilson [mailto:islandgirl@rockisland.com]

Sent: Monday, September 10, 2007 10:09 AM

To: Ward, Jim (UTC); Sidran, Mark (UTC); Oshie, Patrick (UTC); Jones, Philip (UTC)

Cc: Ed Wilson

Subject: new water rates penalize families

Regarding Docket # UW-070944:

I am sure that it was not his intent, however, the 6,000 gallons per month usage scale that Mr. Ward is basing the new water rates on is unfairly biased against working families who live here year-round.

The new scale seems to suggest that the average amount of water that's appropriate for a household to use is under 6,000 gallons -- However, that average amount is based on a population of mostly 1 or 2-person households, many of whom maintain a second residence in another state and aren't even here during the winter months

Our family of 3 is conscientious about conserving water, but we still use close to 7,000 gallons a month during the winter months. (In the summer it's considerably higher due to our garden.) Imagine the impact of your recommended rates on a family of 4 or 5.

In addition, it seems to me that the lowering of the base rate, coupled with the high penalty paid for water usage above 6,000 gallons, compounds the penalty on working families.

Under the new recommended rates I can expect to see our bill for winter-time usage of 7,000 gallons a month go up by 174%. Interestingly enough, if I lived in Rosario, instead of the Highlands, my bill would go up just 75%.

So you can see -- the significant reduction in the base rate paid by all water users, combined with the penalty paid for water usage about 6,000 gallons a month, combined with simply living in the Highlands - and our family will pay a huge penalty. It doesn't seem fair.

Kristen Wilson
Orcas Highlands resident