

one example of numerous other stories by current and past residents of Fragaria Landing.

FLWC seems to operate as though the laws of Washington State do not apply to them. For example, in order to obtain a building permit from Kitsap County it was required that I present a current water availability letter. I requested and received a letter from Fragaria Landing Water Co., and subsequently submitted for permits. By the time the permits were ready to be issued the water letter was more than 12 months old. By Kitsap County regulations the letter can not be more than 12 months old at the time of permit issuance. Therefore, I requested an updated letter from Fragaria Landing Water Co., their response was as soon as I paid \$6,850.00 for the connection they would issue an updated letter. The connection fee had been paid by the previous owner, and the letter they issued previously to me did not require any additional payment. In fact, it acknowledged that the fees were all paid in full. When questioned about it, the response was; "Do you want the letter or not? If so, forward payment immediately and we will issue the replacement letter within 5 days. Yes the previous owner had paid, but that the payment for the connection is non-transferable". Nowhere in any documentation either through public records or provided by FLWC does it state that the connection is not transferable. I personally consider this blackmail, as I had no choice other than to pay the amount requested, as without the letter we would not have been able to build our home. I have attempted to obtain a refund from FLWC, and continue to be refused.

The effect that FLWC's current rate plan has had on the residents of Fragaria Landing is threefold; 1) Some residents have opted to not water their landscaping during dry months due to the excessive expense. The net result of this is a decline in the overall appearance of the subdivision. This decline in appearance also translates directly into a decline in marketability and market value for any property served by FLWC; 2) Some residents who may be retired or on a fixed income, are put in a position of choosing to maintain their largest personal asset or giving up some other aspect of their life due to the shear expense for a basic necessity, water; and 3) The overall property values within Fragaria Landing have been and continue to be negatively affected, as the history of FLWC and its renegade management style is widely known throughout the county. Now adding to that reputation is the excessive charges for water.

In summary, FLWC has acted irresponsibly, and in several cases illegally. I request that the commission revisit the proposed settlement. The currently proposed settlement does not go far enough to address the basic concerns of an insufficient base line allotment, the excessive over-the-base line charges, reimbursement of previously paid excessive charges and sanctions for ignoring the rules and laws set forth by the UTC. If a satisfactory resolution can not be achieved, one that is satisfactory to the customers of FLWC and the UTC, I request that FLWC license to operate be terminated and FLWC be dissolved with the title to the well be transferred to either a responsible municipal water company for management of its operations, or to the homeowners directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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