

Notice of Water Rate Increase

Dear ALWA Member,

Over the past 10 years, we have upgraded and modernized the water system, by replacing key components of the critical infrastructure, resulting in increased efficiency, reliability, and security. Most importantly, we have been able to make these capital improvements with only two minor increases in our water rates over that 10-year period.

But now we are about to tackle our largest infrastructure project in ALWA history, which is replacing the water main around Ames Lake. This massive project is part of our 10-year water system plan, which has been approved by the Washington State Department of Health. Because of the sheer size of this project, we will need to raise water rates and add a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) charge to everyone's monthly bill. These new charges are effective starting with your May 2024 water bill.

What we are doing

Over the next 8-10 years we will be gradually replacing the water main around the lake. Even if you don't live anywhere close to Ames Lake itself, your water supply is dependent on this infrastructure as we use the water mains around the lake to distribute water to every other part of our water system. The water main replacement will be done in stages, so only one part of the road around the lake will be under construction at any one time. Plenty of notice will be given before construction starts.



How your bill will be impacted

There are two ways you will see your bill change with the new water rates:

- A Capital Improvement Charge (labeled as CIP on your bill) of \$11 will be added to every monthly bill.
- The amount you are paying for water will also go up, with every tier seeing a 5% increase to the existing rate, plus an additional charge of 10 cents per 100 gallons of water.

Examples of how your bill will increase

To give you a better idea of how these new charges will impact your bill, we have put together a few examples for you:

- If your bill is normally \$40 per month (19% of our customers)
 - Your new monthly bill will be \$53 per month.
- If your bill is normally \$55 per month (43% of our customers)
 - Your new monthly bill will be \$72 per month.
- If your bill is normally \$70 per month (18 % of our customers)
 - Your new monthly bill will be \$90 per month.

These increases are taking place effective April 1, 2024. So, your next bill will reflect the updated charges.

We understand that any increase in your water bill can be a hardship, and so we would like to announce a new program for low-income households. We have partnered with the Salvation Army to help low-income households find relief with their water bills. Those of your wishing to apply, can call (425) 452-7300 or visit the web site <https://northwest.salvationarmy.org>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the rate increase or the project, please contact us at (425) 222-7003 or info@ameslakewater.org. If you wish to talk to the board in person, we assemble 7pm during the second Tuesday of every month at our office located at 27905 NE 33rd ST Redmond, WA. We will also have a detailed review of the plan, along with construction updates, during our Annual Meeting which takes place each September (exact day still TBD). You can also visit our website at www.ameslkwater.org for more information and updates.

We hope you appreciate our efforts to be transparent and forthcoming with our plans and the rate increases associated with this improvement program.

Sincerely,



David Hoffmann
Board President
Ames Lake Water Association