

## Reasonable Water Use Policy

Effective January 1, 2019



In a yearlong exploration to update our rate structure the Board's Rate Committee examined the question of "What is reasonable water use threshold for a membership?" Eastsound Water's By Laws authorize the Board to review, revise, and change policies. The new Reasonable Water Use policy is described below and is effective as of January 1, 2019.

An Eastsound Water membership is not intended to support unlimited water use and thus the following Reasonable Water use Policy parameters have been adopted:

- A. Annual Water usage will be used to calculate both the base rate component of service fees, and for determining the Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) needs of all memberships.
- B. All memberships will be allowed to utilize up to 100,000 gallons per ERU per year under the new rate structure effective January 1, 2019.
- C. All memberships under the 100,000 gallons per ERU per year, will pay only the service fee rates (Base Rate plus Water Usage Rate).
- D. All memberships exceeding 100,000 gallons per ERU per year will have one of three options (at the members choosing)

OPTION #1 Pay a "system capacity expansion fee" of \$20 per 1000 gallons of water usage in excess of 100,000 gallons per ERU per year. This fee will be billed following the end of each calendar year. OR

OPTION #2 Elect to purchase additional ERU's (minimum of 0.5 ERU with additional increments of 0.25 ERU's) sufficient to reduce the annual usage to under 100,000 gallons per ERU per year, OR

OPTION #3 A combination of the above two options at the discretion of the member.

Revenue from both the "system capacity expansion fee" and the sale of ERU's is specifically directed to capital improvement funds that development additional water system capacity and are not part of the annual operating budget.

It is important to reiterate that the member is not obligated to purchase ERU's – rather the members may 'choose' whatever is in their best interest. Members have access to their water use history through Eastsound Water's EYE ON WATER system. (Learn more at <https://eastsoundwater.org/eyeonwater/>)

Eastsound Water has also adopted new 4 and 6 year payment plans to help make membership purchases easier to budget for. Details can be found on our website at <https://eastsoundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/EWUA-Rate-Schedule-2019.pdf>

As of the effective date of this change – EWUA has identified less than 20 members who may exceed the 100,000 gal/ERU/year threshold and therefore be subject to the Reasonable Water Use Threshold Policy. Questions can be directed to General Manager Paul Kamin at 360-376-2127, [pkamin@rockisland.com](mailto:pkamin@rockisland.com)