



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

FROM: Paula J. Harris, P.E., Flood Planning and Mitigation Manager *PJH*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *GS*

RE: Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ferndale
Ferndale Levee Improvement Project (No. 19081928)

DATE: April 8, 2025

Enclosed is an Interlocal (ILA) agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the City of Ferndale (City) for your review and signature.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, authorize the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ferndale for the Ferndale Levee Improvements Project.

Background and Purpose

The current levee system along Ferndale Rd in unincorporated Whatcom County and the City of Ferndale does not provide reliable flood protection to critical infrastructure including two water and one wastewater treatment plants, as well as roads, parks, residences and farmland. The US Army Corps of Engineers has identified multiple deficiencies with the levee system that could jeopardize its eligibility in the PL84-99 Levee Repair and Rehabilitation Program.

The FCZD was awarded a '21-'23 biennium Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant from the Department of Ecology which includes funding in Task 2 for the Ferndale Levee Improvements project and Task 6 for Floodplain Land Acquisition. The FCZD has administered all contracts and provided all previous FbD grant matches for the design work up to 60% design phase.

This agreement establishes the responsibilities of the FCZD and the City for design from the 60 to 90% level, permitting, and land acquisition. A future amendment to the agreement will be necessary for subsequent project phases.

Funding Amount and Source

The project is being funded through a Department of Ecology Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant. Project costs for the 60% to 90% design level and permitting are estimated to be \$300,000. The FbD grant will provide for 80% funding; the remaining 20% will be divided equally between the FCZD and the City (approximately \$30,000 per agency).

The FbD grant will reimburse 80% of the land acquisition costs. The City will provide the 20% local match for land acquisition within the City limits and the City's UGA. The FCZD will provide the 20% local match for land acquisition in unincorporated Whatcom County. No appraisals have been performed, however the estimated land acquisition costs range from \$75,000 to \$500,000 depending on mitigation needs.

Please contact Paula Harris at extension 6285 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.