




## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and the  
Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 

RE: Contract with Cascadia Policy Solutions, LLC to Develop and Implement a  
Collaborative Water Solutions Table

DATE: September 2, 2021

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### Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, and the County Council, acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, enter into an agreement for the sum of \$190,000 with Cascadia Policy Solutions, LLC, for the purpose of developing and implementing a collaborative water solutions table.

### Background and Purpose

Community leaders in Whatcom County have worked cooperatively for over two decades to resolve long-standing issues related to water management. In October 2020, Executive Sidhu distributed a draft concept paper outlining his proposal for water interests to participate in a collaborative process to attempt to reach agreement on how to comprehensively resolve the community's long-standing water issues. The Board of Supervisors provided \$250,000 in funding for this effort in the 2021 FCZD budget. Furthermore, at the request of the Executive, the Washington State Legislature has provided a total of \$250,000 to the County in the current state biennial budget to fund the proposed collaborative process and related technical work. In January 2021, the County hired local water experts at Cascadia Policy Solutions, LLC to reach out to major water interests in Whatcom County to determine the level of readiness to engage in a comprehensive water settlement process and to provide legislative outreach and engagement. The results of that assessment indicated universal interest, albeit at various levels, in such a collaborative process. This agreement includes the development and implementation of the collaborative process, referred to as a "Solutions Table".

Based on the unique qualifications of the consultant team, the Executive has determined that Cascadia Policy Solutions, LLC is a sole source provider for this contract per WCC 3.08.060(a).

### Funding Amount and Source

The contract is not to exceed \$190,000 and shall be implemented in two phases. The scope of work for the current phase is described in the attached contract with a budget of \$95,000 and an anticipated completion date of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. A scope of work for an additional phase will be developed based on the results of the first phase. The second phase has a budget of \$95,000 and an anticipated completion date of December 31, 2022.

There are sufficient funds in the 2021 FCZD budget to fund the first phase of this contract. The budget for the second phase is included in the proposed 2022 Flood Control Zone District budget (Cost Center 169121). It is anticipated that both phases of this contract will be paid for using money provided to the County by the state legislature in the 2021-2023 state budget.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 for any clarification or additional information on the agreement and the associated project.