



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu Whatcom County Executive and
Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *JH*

FROM: Paula J. Harris, P.E., River and Flood Manager *PJH*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *MS*

RE: Drainage Improvement District No. 5 Assessment Revision

DATE: January 27, 2020

Enclosed is an Ordinance titled Finalizing A Revised System Of Assessment For Drainage Improvement District No. 5 for your review and signature, subject to a public hearing.

▪ **Requested Action**

The County Engineer respectfully requests that the County Executive and the County Council adopt an Ordinance revising the system of assessment for Drainage Improvement District No. 5. District Supervisors are in support of the revised system of assessment for the District.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This ordinance adopts a revised system of assessment based on new and more accurate information to provide revenue for Drainage Improvement District No. 5. The revised system of assessment is similar to the current system; the assessment for each parcel is generally based on a combination of the relative ratio of benefit or use and the acreage within the District. Each property owner pays a proportionate share based on the resulting total benefit value within their parcel.

Updated and more accurate parcels, topography and soils information was used to develop a revised benefit zone map; this map is used with an automated routine to calculate the basis for each parcel's individual assessment. The final fee paid is determined from this basis along with the total assessment amount set by the district Supervisors. The revised system provides a more accurate and equitable assessment of benefits. In addition, a one acre minimum parcel size is being proposed to account for the increased runoff generated by higher density development.

Notices are being sent to each of the affected property owners informing them of the hearing and their specific assessment fee under the past and proposed systems of assessment.

Please contact Paula Cooper at 6285, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Encl.