

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa  
Director**



**NATURAL RESOURCES**

322 N. Commercial, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Telephone: (360) 778-6230  
FAX: (360) 778-6231  
[www.whatcomcounty.us](http://www.whatcomcounty.us)

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council Acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, and Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

**FROM:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*  
Jon-Paul Shannahan, Environmental Programs Manager

**DATE:** April 3, 2026

**RE:** Resolution Authorizing Three Independent Grant Applications to the FY 27-29 Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board

---

**Requested Action**

Approval is requested for a resolution that authorizes the County Executive, acting on behalf of the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District, to submit three grant applications to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB).

**Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County Public Works has prepared three grant applications for the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board's 2027-2029 grant cycle. An authorizing resolution from the applicant's governing body is a required grant application attachment.

The resolution authorizes the Whatcom County Executive, acting on behalf of the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, to apply for, and enter into, grant agreements should funding be awarded. The three projects are located on Homesteader and Clipper Roads in the South Fork Nooksack River valley northeast of Acme. Each project supports the county's obligation under RCW 77.57.030 to provide fish passage through obstructions and are priority projects identified from implementing the Culvert Memorandum of Agreement with Fishery Co-Managers.

- **Black Slough Creek RCO Project No. 26-1066:** The project will support construction of a new culvert that restores full fish passage and accommodates future climate related flow estimates.
- **Homesteader Creek RCO Project No. 26-1067:** This project will support the final design, permitting and construction of a new culvert that supports fish passage and future climate related flow estimates.
- **Tinling Creek RCO Project No. 26-1069:** This project will support final design and construction estimates.

This area was selected due to County land acquisition and restoration planning in the project area, Black Slough's importance as a source of cool and steady flow to the South Fork that benefits early Chinook recovery efforts, and the opportunity to address the remaining priority County road barrier culverts in the Black Slough stream system. These projects are currently listed under B11 on the Public Works 2026-2031 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

**Funding Amount and Source**

The request for Black Slough (RCO No. 26-1066) is for \$1,646,000 with \$296,000 in local match for a total amount of \$1,942,000. The request for Homesteader (RCO No. 26-1067) is for \$1,879,000 with \$337,000 in local match for a total amount of \$2,216,000. The request for Tinling Creek (RCO No. 26-1069) is for \$420,000 and requires no local match. Each request will be included in the 2027 and 2028 Public Works budgets in anticipation of July 1, 2027 grant awards if successful.

Please contact John Thompson at ext. 6295, if you have any questions regarding the terms of this agreement.