



# 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:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *GS*  
Julie Anderson, River and Flood Manager *JAA*

**Subject:** Cooperative Agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for Rehabilitation of Flood Control Works – Ritter Road Levee Repair – Project No. NSK-02-26

**Date:** 06/01/2026

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Enclosed please find one (1) original of a Cooperation Agreement between the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for your review and signature.

## Background and Purpose

High flows along the Nooksack River from the December 2025 flood event have caused scouring and bank erosion along the riverward slope and toe of the Ritter Road levee resulting in loss of embankment material. The damage occurred along the left bank of the Nooksack River near the end of Ritter Road between the Cities of Lynden and Ferndale. The proposed project will repair approximately 450 linear feet of the levee to better withstand future high-water events. The segment of levee to be repaired provides a 100-year level of protection (undamaged condition) and primarily protects high value agricultural lands and associated infrastructure, low density development and County roads. The Ritter Road Levee is active and eligible for repairs under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) PL84-99 program.

## Funding Amount and Source

The total construction cost is estimated at \$580,500, of which 80% or \$464,400 will be funded by the USACE, and 20% or \$116,100 is the responsibility of the FCZD or local sponsor. The repair work is located within Diking District #3 (DkD3). Accordingly, DkD3 shall provide contribution toward the project equal to 30%, or \$34,830 of the FCZD share for Rehabilitation Effort Costs incurred by the USACE. The budget authority for this expenditure is included in the adopted 2026 budgets for the FCZD for emergency repairs. As discussed with the Board of Supervisors on May 26, 2026, staff plans to submit a subsequent supplemental budget request to replace this expense to ensure there is adequate budget for emergency

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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repairs for the next flood season. Council authorization is required pursuant to RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

**Recommended Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, and the County Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, enter into a cooperative agreement for repairs to the Ritter Road levee along the left bank of the Nooksack River. A Flood Control Works Agreement between the FCZD and DkD3 for this levee project will be forwarded under separate cover.

Please contact Travis Bouma (Project Manager) at extension 6293 if you have any questions or concerns.

Encl.