



## Memorandum

October 23, 2023

TO: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Contract with SCJ Alliance / 2025 Comp Plan Update

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### **Requested Action**

This request is to enter into a contract with Shea, Carr & Jewell, Inc. (dba SCJ Alliance) to perform certain tasks associated with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, urban growth area, and development regulations update.

### **Background and Purpose**

The Growth Management Act requires Whatcom County to review and update the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations by June 30, 2025. Pursuant to the subject contract, SCJ Alliance will provide professional services associated with the 2025 Update relating to:

1. Population and housing projections;
2. Employment projections;
3. Land capacity analysis;
4. SEPA environmental analysis;
5. Transportation model analysis;
6. Housing element;
7. Tribal cultural resources and participation;
8. Climate change response;
9. 40-Year planning strategy;
10. Whatcom County Council priorities (Resolution 2022-036);
11. Mineral Resource Lands assessment;
12. Whatcom County 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan update;
13. Subarea plans;
14. Columbia Valley UGA – Planned Light Impact Industrial area;
15. Essential public facilities;
16. Open space within and between UGAs;
17. Limited areas of more intensive rural development;
18. Public participation plan; and
19. Project management.

## Funding Amount and Source

The proposed contract with SCJ Alliance is for a total of \$1,143,010. There are three funding sources for the contract:

State Periodic Update Grant:	\$ 492,950 (AB2023-509)
State Climate Planning Grant:	\$ 323,906
Interlocal Agreement with cities and WCOG:	<u>\$ 326,154</u> (AB2023-657)
Total	\$ 1,143,010

The State periodic update grant and interlocal agreement with the cities and WCOG have come before Council. The State climate planning grant has not yet come to Council. The State Department of Commerce has reserved \$800,000 in climate planning grant funding from the Climate Commitment Act for Whatcom County. The County is in the process of developing a grant application to acquire climate planning grant funds. A portion of these funds would be used for the contract with SCJ Alliance.

We request that Council approve a motion on November 8, 2023 authorizing the County Executive to sign the contract for professional services associated with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update.

Thank you for your review and consideration of the proposed contract.