



MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *Jon Hutchings*
SIGN FOR DIRECTOR

FROM: Kraig Olason, Stormwater Program Manager *KO*
Cathy Craver, Senior Planner *CC*

DATE: September 15, 2020

RE: Amendment to WCC 16.30 regarding the Lake Whatcom Stormwater
Utility Capital Facilities Charge

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Whatcom County Council and County Executive approve the proposed amendments to Whatcom County Code 16.30.

Background and Purpose

On July 23, 2019, the Whatcom County Council authorized a charge for the furnishing of service to those who are receiving or will receive benefits from stormwater control facilities or programs who are contributing to an increase in surface water runoff in the Lake Whatcom stormwater utility service area. (Ordinance 2019-053)

The original implementing ordinance included a one-time Capital Facilities Charge (CFC) "intended to recover a share of the cost of system capacity needed to serve growth." (Executive Summary of Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility Formation Process, FCS Group, October 2019). This charge provides for recovery of cost spent on system development.

At the time of adoption of the implementing ordinance for the utility, the CFC needed further clarification regarding the recipients of the charge, the calculation of the charge amount, and to ensure consistency of definitions within Whatcom County Code.

This amendment:

1. Modifies the definition of "Equivalent service unit" (ESU) from the original ordinance for clarification when implanting the regulation.
2. Modifies the definition of "Impervious surface" to be consistent with the current adopted definition within Whatcom County Code.
3. Expands on how the CFC is assessed to single-family residential parcels and other developed parcels.

Please contact Kraig Olason at extension 6301, or Cathy Craver at extension 6299, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the amendment.