



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Satpal 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: Julie Anderson, River and Flood Manager *JMA*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *GS*

DATE: March 27, 2026

RE: Grant Agreement with Department of Ecology for Floodplain Integrated Planning Support

Enclosed is a grant agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for your review and signature.

▪ Proposed Action

Review and sign the Department of Ecology OTGP-2025-WhCoPW-000xx Proviso Grant Agreement (Agreement) for the 2025-27 biennium advancing the Nooksack Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process.

▪ Background and Purpose

In response to the November 2021 floods, the State legislature included a budget proviso in the 2022 supplemental budget to fund the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process. The State legislature has maintained this support into the 2025-27 biennium through a new budget proviso.

The grant provides funding to: (1) advance the planning work necessary to evaluate and implement flood mitigation alternatives that provide multi-benefit solutions on the Lower Nooksack River and for the Everson Overflow Corridor; and (2) advance efforts towards completion of an Integrated Floodplain Management Plan (IFMP). This work includes aligning stakeholders and securing buy-in to move forward with the "Widen the Everson Corridor" concept, including early action projects in support of the larger project; technical and policy support for the Transboundary Flood Initiative (TFI) collaborative process; and public outreach and engagement of the FLIP process.

▪ Funding Amount and Source

The proposed grant agreement provides \$2,738,000 of State funding and requires no match.

Please contact Paula Harris at extension 6285 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.