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Mark Personius
Director

Memorandum

April 10, 2024

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

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner
Chris Elder, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Contract with Cascadia / 2025 Comp Plan Update / Climate Change

Requested Action

This request is to enter into a contract with Cascadia Consulting Group to perform certain tasks associated with developing the 2025 Comprehensive Plan's new Climate Change and Resiliency element.

Background and Purpose

The Growth Management Act requires Whatcom County to review and update the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations by December 31, 2025. [House Bill 1181](#) requires the County to develop a new Climate Change and Resiliency element in the Comprehensive Plan (RCW 36.70A.070(9)). Pursuant to the subject contract, Cascadia Consulting Group will provide professional services to create work products that will inform the Comprehensive Plan update, including:

1. Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Report;
2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report;
3. Local Emissions Trends and Projections Report;
4. Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Audit; and
5. Climate Hazard and Impact Assessment Report.

Whatcom County has an existing contract with SCJ Alliance for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update. This contract with Cascadia Consulting Group will provide specific climate-related information that will inform SCJ Alliance's policy work and County decisions on the Comprehensive Plan update.

Funding Amount and Source

The proposed contact with Cascadia Consulting Group is for a total of \$180,295. There are two funding sources for the contact:

- State Climate Planning Grant; and
- Cost sharing interlocal agreement with cities.

A supplemental budget request was submitted for these funding sources under [Agenda Bill 2024-116](#). The County Council approved the budget request under [Ordinance 2024-011](#).

We request that Council approve a motion on April 23, 2024 authorizing the County Executive to sign the contract for professional services to develop background documents relating to climate change and resiliency that will inform the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update.

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