

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**


NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers
Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager 
Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, Program Specialist

DATE: June 20, 2023

RE: Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to fund Aquatic Invasive Species enforcement patrols on Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish

Requested Action

Whatcom County Public Works (WCPW) respectfully requests that the County Executive and the County Council enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Bellingham to fund Aquatic Invasive Species enforcement patrols on Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish.

Background and Purpose

The Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) launched the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program in 2012 with the goal of preventing the introduction of zebra and quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species to Lake Whatcom. Whatcom County works with LWMP partners City of Bellingham and Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District to support the AIS program, which focuses on mandatory boat inspections at Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish and educating the boating public about AIS prevention.

The project partners believe it is beneficial to the program to conduct enforcement patrols. In 2020, the City of Bellingham piloted a program to provide AIS regulations enforcement on Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish via an interlocal agreement with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). Whatcom County will continue this program onwards through interdepartmental agreements between WCPW and WCSO. This interlocal agreement brings in the City of Bellingham to fund 50% of the AIS enforcement patrols expenses, which include staff and fuel costs. Whatcom County Council approved \$40,000 of expenditures for AIS enforcement patrols in the 2023 budget, as detailed in ASR # 2023-6441. The same amount will be included in the 2024 budget.

Funding Amount and Source

This agreement will reimburse Whatcom County for 50% of the AIS enforcement patrols cost, not to exceed \$20,000 per year for the first two years.

Please contact Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke at extension 6247, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Interlocal Agreement