

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**ELIZABETH KOSA
DIRECTOR**



River and Flood Division
322 N Commercial St.
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: 360-778-6230

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh 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 Manager *GS*

RE: Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group
FEMA HMGP Elevation Grant Homeowner Assistance – Amendment #1

DATE: June 4, 2025

Enclosed is a contract amendment for services between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group for your review and approval.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, enter into a contract amendment with Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group (WLTRG) to expand local assistance to homeowners participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, HMGP-4635-01-DR elevation grant awarded by FEMA. Eight (8) additional homeowners (properties) will receive contractor services as a result of this amendment.

Background and Purpose

In response to the devastating flood events in Whatcom County in 2021, the FCZD pursued and was awarded grant funding under FEMA's suite of Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs. Staff recognized the need to provide local assistance to homeowners to help them overcome challenges encountered during the home elevation process, and the initial contract with WLTRG was executed on February 18, 2025. Over the past few months, WLTRG has been assisting homeowners participating in the grant, and the first two permit applications have been submitted for review. Since the partnership has proven beneficial, we request your approval for WLTRG to continue supporting the homeowners. The initial \$40,000 contract is currently being expended in support of approximately four (4) properties. An additional \$80,000 is necessary to ensure support the twelve (12) homeowners participating in the grant program.

Funding and Source

The proposed amended contract amount is \$120,000. The 2025 FCZD Budget has adequate budget authority for this work. Costs associated with this scope of work are eligible for reimbursement under the HMGP elevation grants.

Please contact Julie Anderson at extension 6258, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this contract.