



MEMORANDUM

TO: Carol Frazey, Whatcom County Executive Pro Tempore, 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

FROM: Paula J. Harris, P.E., River and Flood Manager *PJH*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *GS*

DATE: November 1, 2023

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.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In response to the November 2021 floods, the State legislature included a budget proviso in the 2022 supplemental budget to provide funding support for the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process that was initiated several years ago. The State legislature is continuing and increasing this support for the 2023-25 biennium through a new budget proviso. The grant provides funding to advance the technical and collaborative planning work needed to develop and evaluate flood mitigation alternatives, with particular focus in the Everson-Sumas overflow corridor. This work includes ongoing evaluation of potential flood mitigation alternatives; sediment investigations to evaluate potential project implications, technical support for the Nooksack River International Task Force; and facilitation and public outreach support for the FLIP process. This Proviso also includes an allocation for increasing staff capacity to manage and support the FLIP work.

▪ **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.