

Jon Hutchings
Director



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive, and
Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *JH*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*

DATE: November 18, 2020

RE: Contract with GSI Water Solutions, Inc and Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District
to Conduct a Peer Review of the Lynden-Everson-Nooksack-Sumas Numerical
Groundwater Model

Requested Action

Enclosed are two (2) originals of a contract between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI) for your review and signature.

Background and Purpose

The work in this contract includes a peer review of the Lynden-Everson-Nooksack-Sumas (LENS) numerical groundwater model. The initial numerical model was completed in 2019 on behalf of WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board agencies and other partners (Whatcom County, Whatcom PUD, City of Bellingham, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, Bertrand Watershed Improvement District, and Washington Department of Ecology), with the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District acting as the contracting agent and project manager. Following completion of the initial numerical model, the group recognized the need for additional work necessary for full utilization of the model; however, it was decided that a peer review of the current model should be conducted to ensure it is scientifically sound and meets industry standards prior to conducting further modeling work. The goal of the project is to develop a model which will adequately assess the impacts to surface water flow from groundwater pumping and to inform the development of a water management plan that balances the needs of salmon and other aquatic resources with out-of-stream water needs. The model is envisioned to be a crucial tool in developing solutions that are necessary to resolve the long-standing water management issues in Whatcom County.

Funding Amount and Source

The estimated budget for this contract is \$103,700. The FCZD Board of Supervisors approved funding for this project in the 2020 FCZD Budget (Cost Center 169121) approved on November 19, 2019.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.