



M E M O R A N D U M

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: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

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

DATE: August 25, 2022

RE: Joint Funding Agreement with United States Geological Survey for Early Flood Warning Gages

Enclosed is a Joint Funding Agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The FCZD has worked cooperatively with the USGS for a number of years to collect stream-gaging data on a real-time basis for early flood warning and flood response. Financing of this program is provided on a cost-share basis through the USGS Cooperative Program. Similar to last year's Joint Funding Agreement, it includes the six early warning gages on the Nooksack River and its upper forks, plus the Jones Creek gage and the Everson overflow gage at Main Street. This year's JFA also includes the following additions and upgrades to the network:

- Additional high flow measurements to improve the rating curves used to estimate flows from measured stages at the Cedarville and Everson gages
- Installation of a new overflow gage at Emerson Road to monitor overflow into the Everson-Sumas corridor
- Installation of cameras and cellular telemetry at the Emerson Road and Everson Main Street overflow gages
- Installation of a new gage on the Sumas River which also contributes significant flow to the Everson-Sumas overflow corridor
- Installation of a new river gage at the Guide-Meridian

These additions and upgrades are intended to improve our early warning system and our long-term planning and flood hazard reduction efforts.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The proposed Joint Funding Agreement is for a total amount of \$217,706, of which \$11,909 will be funded by the USGS through Cooperative Matching Funds. The FCZD fund will provide \$199,672, with \$6,818 from the Acme/Van Zandt Subzone fund, and the City of Abbotsford will reimburse \$4,545

in accordance with the existing Interlocal Agreement for the Everson Main Street Overflow gaging station.

Similar to last year, another portion (\$6,125) of the total USGS contribution of \$18,034 is through its Federal Priority Streamgaging Program, which is reflected in the Joint Funding Agreement (item 2c.) but not in Attachment A as the agreement is only for Cooperative Water Program funding. We are currently negotiating a grant agreement with the Washington Department of Commerce that may provide as much as \$91,075 to offset the costs of the gaging improvements.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

This year's costs are \$94,751 higher than the cost of services provided last year, primarily due to the additions and upgrades to the gaging network.

Please contact Paula Harris at extension 6285 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.