



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EaK*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager
Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager
Jon-Paul Shannahan, Environmental Programs Manager *JPS*

DATE: August 27, 2025

RE: Washington Department of Commerce- 2025-2027 Climate Planning Grant

Please find attached for your review a copy of the Washington Department of Commerce- 2025-2027 Climate Planning Grant. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Whatcom County Council authorize the County Executive to sign this agreement for the Washington Department of Commerce 2025-2027 Climate Planning Grant for \$283,000.

Background and Purpose

Washington Department of Commerce has allocated Whatcom County non-competitive funding for development of a climate element for the 2025 Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan update and supporting climate planning technical reports. The grant agreement for \$283,000 will fund up to \$86,000 in Whatcom County staff cost reimbursement via the Climate Action Fund for technical review, tribal consultation, committee engagement, and Planning Commission and Council review and amendments of the Climate Element until the GMA periodic review deadline of December 31, 2025.

In support of the RCW 36.70A.070 requirement that the resilience sub element is consistent with the best available science and scientifically credible climate projections, the remaining \$215,000 is designated for County cost share towards the Lake Whatcom Climate Vulnerability Assessment (City of Bellingham RFP # 56B-2025, Lake Whatcom Management Program Workplan objective 11.1.2). The Commerce climate planning grant funds will provide Climate Action Fund reimbursement for 2025 Lake Whatcom Management Program Climate Action program area. The Commerce climate planning funds for the Lake Whatcom Climate Vulnerability Assessment will be applied to staff time reimbursement, as well as climate modelling.

Funding Amount and Source

This WA Department of Commerce 2025-2027 Climate Planning Grant will provide \$283,000 to support climate planning. Budget authority for this grant agreement is provided in the 2025 Natural Resources budget in the Climate Action Fund, contingent on the Whatcom County Council approval of supplemental budget request SBR 5072.

Please contact Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager at x6241 or Gary Stoyka, Natural Resource Manager at extension x6218 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.