



Elizabeth Kosa
DIRECTOR

M E M O R A N D U M

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

DATE: November 3, 2023

RE: Herrera Environmental Consultants Contract for Services to support Lower Nooksack River Floodplain Integrated Planning – Amendment No. 7

Enclosed is an amendment to a Contract for Services between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and Herrera Environmental Consultants for your review and signature.

▪ **Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive and Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, enter into a contract amendment with Herrera Environmental Consultants to continue supporting the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) Process along with additional specific tasks to further the technical work needed to advance flood mitigation work for the Everson-Sumas overflow. Under this contract amendment, the consultants will produce deliverables as outlined in the scope of work of the Washington State Department of Ecology (WA DOE) Proviso grant which is proposed as a separate agenda item.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Herrera was retained in March 2018 to assist Public Works staff in updating and broadening the scope of the 1999 Lower Nooksack River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan to integrate flood risk reduction with the needs of salmon and floodplain land-uses. The update will provide a basis for future Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District capital programs and support possible WRIA1 Salmon Recovery Plan updates.

The first two years of planning focused on developing a shared understanding of the river processes and impacts to flood risk, habitat and floodplain land uses. Detailed reach planned begin in 2020, with a focus on Reach 2 (Guide-Meridian to I-5). Since the 2021 floods, the focus has shifted to the Everson-Overflow flow split.

Mitigation options were developed by the Flow Split Reach Team at a design charrette help in April of 2022. Since then we have performed hydraulic analyses of the options, and started combining options into scenarios and evaluating how the scenarios address the shared values of the FLIP team.

The proposed amendment will continue this work of hydraulic modeling and evaluating mitigation scenarios and includes sediment investigations to assess how potential mitigation actions will affect the flow of sediment to downstream reaches of the river. Support for public outreach and communications is also included.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The proposed amendment is for \$1,207,840 for a total amended contract amount of \$2,407,540. The WA DOE Proviso grant will provide 100% reimbursement to support this work. The 2023 and proposed 2024 FCZD budgets have adequate expenditure authority to fund the proposed amendment.

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