



# MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

**Through:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

**From:** Paula Harris, Flood Planning & Mitigation Manager  
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*

**Prepared by:** Julie Anderson, River & Flood Manager *JA*

**Subject:** United States Geological Survey – Joint Funding Agreement – Amendment 2

**Date:** June 22, 2026

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Enclosed is an amendment to an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for your review and signature.

## Background and Purpose

The original contract, for the purpose of sediment modeling on the lower Nooksack River, provides that the performance period may be changed by mutual agreement. This is the second renewal of the contract with an expiration date of September 30, 2027.

The USGS has been participating on the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) technical team, working to understand how sediment moves through the river and impacts flooding. The existing agreement includes analysis and documentation of topographic/bathymetric changes in the river geometry, field data collection of channel grain size data and participation in meetings to disseminate results. This amendment supports continued USGS involvement in technical meetings, facilitation of 2026 lidar data collection and analysis, and the development of a watershed-scale sediment budget.

Eligible expenses that occurred prior to the execution of the agreement are reimbursable back to the effective date of April 1, 2026.

## Funding Amount and Source

This contract amendment increases the FCZD cost-share by \$60,000 and increases the USGS cost-share by \$40,000. The contract amendment increases the maximum consideration from \$195,050 to \$295,050. The 2025 Proviso from the Department of Ecology will provide 100% reimbursement of this expenditure. The revenue and expenditure have been allocated in the 2026-2027 FCZD budget. Council approval is required per WCC 3.08.090(M).

WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

ELIZABETH KOSA  
DIRECTOR



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### **Recommended Action**

This contract amendment, submitted for Department Head and Executive approval, extends the term of the agreement to September 30, 2027 and increases the maximum FCZD contribution by \$60,000. The scope of work provides for ongoing technical support for the FLIP sediment work.

Please contact Paula Harris, PE, Flood Planning & Mitigation Manager at [pharris@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:pharris@co.whatcom.wa.us) or at extension 6285 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.