



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of 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 Manager *GS*

RE: Washington State Department of Ecology 2021-23 Floodplains by Design
(FbD) Grant SEAFBD-2021-23-WhCoPw-0014

DATE: April 18, 2022

Please find enclosed for your review, two copies of the Shorelands Floodplains by Design Grant agreement "Nooksack River: Floodplains that Work – Phase 2" between the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) for your review and approval. Hard copy signatures are required for this agreement.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, authorize the County Executive to sign this grant agreement.

Background and Purpose

This grant agreement provides Floodplains by Design funding to the FCZD at an 80/20 cost-share and builds upon existing Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) efforts to reduce flood hazard, increase flood resiliency, and improve habitat. Components of this grant include advancing four capital projects, providing support to ongoing floodplain management efforts, and key land acquisitions. Funding from this grant will support the FCZD as well as agricultural, tribal, small city and other watershed partners effected by recent flooding.

The capital projects supported by this grant include three in the FCZD's flood hazard reduction program and one in partnership with the Nooksack Indian Tribe. These projects are:

- Ferndale Levee Improvement Project – Final design
- Jones Creek deflection berm – Final design and construction
- Fish Camp Integrated Fish Flood Project (Nooksack Indian Tribe partnership) – Design / construction of Phase 1A
- Glacier Gallup Creek alluvial fan restoration –Final design, construction of interim project

The grant will provide funding to support the agricultural, tribal and small city communities for participating in the FLIP process to update the Lower Nooksack River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan and implement early action projects consistent with the plan. This grant supports acquisition of key properties needed for future floodplain reconnection, habitat restoration and flood risk reduction.

Funding Amount and Source

The total cost of this grant agreement is \$7,900,000, with \$6,320,000 (80%) provided by the Department of Ecology and \$1,580,000 (20%) provided by the FCZD and project partners. There are sufficient funds in the Flood Control Zone District budget for expenditures proposed for 2022. Funding for 2021-2023 will be included in those budgets.

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