



# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu 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 *ek*

**From:** Julie Anderson, River and Flood Manager *JMA*  
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *GStoyka*

**Subject:** University of Washington Interlocal Agreement #2 for DELFT Sediment Modeling

**Date:** June 24, 2026

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Enclosed is an Interlocal agreement (ILA) between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the University of Washington (UW) for your review and signature.

## Background and Purpose

Whatcom County is leading the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) Project to identify mitigation measures and update the 1999 Lower Nooksack River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. Because sediment transport has been changing the dynamics of the flow split at Everson, the FCZD has retained consultants to evaluate the impacts to sediment movement associated with potential mitigation options. Some of the mitigation options being considered are focused on trying to restore a more natural flow of sediment near Everson to reduce the variability of the flows going to the Everson-Sumas overflow corridor and downstream to Bellingham Bay.

The state-of-the-art models used in the consulting practice are limited and only partially represent the natural process associated with sediment transport in gravel-bed rivers. The UW has developed a more sophisticated morphodynamic model of the Nooksack River that can represent river processes more comprehensively, but requires the use of supercomputers that limit the simulation timeframes. The FCZD requests assistance from the UW to utilize their model of the Nooksack to support the ongoing sediment work underway on the FLIP team. A previous 2025 ILA with UW (ILA #1 – contract number 202504024) completed the first phase of work and the proposed ILA (ILA #2) will complete Phase 2 which addresses future tasks identified in Phase 1 including building confidence in the current understanding of morphodynamic adjustment in the Nooksack River near Everson and to evaluate alternatives proposed as part of the Widen the Corridor (WTC) project.

## Funding Amount and Source

The proposed contract amount is \$209,814. The 2026-2027 FCZD Budget has adequate budget authority for this work. This ILA is 100% funded through the current State Proviso through the Department of Ecology that supports the FLIP work. Council authorization is required pursuant to RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

## Differences from Previous Contract

The work included in this ILA (ILA #2) is Phase 2 and builds on work completed in Phase 1 (ILA #1, contract no. 202504024).

Please contact Paula Harris, 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.