

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa  
Director**





**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Whatcom County Council  
The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

**FROM:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager   
Chris Elder, Senior Planner 

**DATE:** August 27, 2024

**RE:** Interlocal Agreement for Developing Future Bluff Erosion Projections

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Please find attached for your review a copy of the Interlocal Agreement with Western Washington University for developing projections of coastal bluff erosion owing to sea level rise across Whatcom County. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

**Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council review and authorize the County Executive to sign this agreement.

**Background and Purpose**

Climate change continues to challenge governments to respond and adapt to changing conditions. Through proactive assessment and collaborative planning, Whatcom County and its partners hope to understand future impacts along marine and riverine shorelines to support resilient communities and ecosystems. Whatcom County received \$250,000 in funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Shorelands Shoreline Planning Competitive Grant program and the attached interlocal agreement with Western Washington University will be funded entirely through this grant. The attached interlocal agreement with Western Washington University will support development of refined bluff erosion models under different sea level rise scenarios which will be integrated into the Phase 2 Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Management Solutions project being supported by Herrera Environmental Consultants.

**Funding Amount and Source**

This contract will provide \$35,600 to support development of coastal bluff erosion rates due to sea level rise across Whatcom County to be used in development of a Phase 2 Climate Vulnerability Assessment and development of Shoreline Management Solutions. The majority of the funding for this agreement (\$35,000) is provided by Washington State Department of Ecology's Shorelands Shoreline Planning Competitive Grant (Whatcom County Contract #202401027). The remaining \$600 in funding will come from the 2024 Climate Action Budget. Budget authority for this contract is provided in the 2024 Climate Action budget.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.  
Interlocal Agreement