



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, 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 & Flood Manager, Public Works Department *JHA*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GStoyka*

Subject: Washington State Department of Ecology 2025-27 Floodplains by Design Grant SEAFBD-2527-WhCoPW-00019

Date: June 16, 2026

Enclosed is the Shorelands Floodplains by Design Grant Agreement “The Nooksack River: Floodplains that Work – Phase 4” between the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) for your review and signature.

Background and Purpose

This grant agreement provides Floodplains by Design (FbD) funding to the FCZD to build upon existing Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) efforts to reduce flood hazard, increase flood resiliency, and improve habitat. Components of this grant include advancing capital projects and providing support to ongoing floodplain management efforts and key land acquisitions.

The capital projects supported by this grant include two in the FCZD’s flood hazard reduction program and one in partnership with the Nooksack Indian Tribe (NIT). These projects are:

- Glacier-Gallup Alluvial Fan Restoration – Advance to final design
- Ferndale Levee Improvement – Advance to Phase 1 construction
- Fish Camp Integrated Fish Flood Project (NIT) – Complete construction of flood hazard reduction components

This grant will 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. It also supports acquisition of key properties needed for future floodplain reconnection, habitat restoration and flood risk reduction.

Eligible expenses that occurred prior to the execution of this agreement are reimbursable back to the effective date of 07/01/2025.

WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
ELIZABETH KOSA
DIRECTOR



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Funding Amount and Source

The total cost of this grant agreement is \$10,000,000, with 100% provided by DOE and zero cost share by the FCZD. Revenue and expenditures are included in the 2026 and 2027 budgets. Council approval is required pursuant to WCC 3.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000.

Please contact Julie Anderson, River & Flood Manager, at jmanders@co.whatcom.wa.us or at extension 6258 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.