



**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 and Flood Manager *JMA*  
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*

**RE:** Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group  
FEMA HMGP Elevation Grant Homeowner Assistance – Amendment #2

**DATE:** February 5, 2026

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Enclosed is a contract amendment for services between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group for your review and approval.

**Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council, acting as the FCZD Board of Supervisors, enter into a contract amendment with Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group (WLTRG) to adopt the WLTRG 2026 billing rates effective January 1, 2026 and to increase their project management task budget in the FEMA HMGP-4635-01-DR elevation grant.

**Background and Purpose**

In response to the devastating flood events in Whatcom County in 2021, the FCZD pursued and was awarded the first of two HMGP elevation grants. Staff recognized the need to provide local assistance to homeowners to help them overcome challenges encountered during the home elevation process, and the initial contract with WLTRG was executed on February 18, 2025. Over the past year, WLTRG has successfully managed this program, and currently nine (9) homes are elevated with one (1) project in permitting.

Because the FCZD and WLTRG didn't have an established elevation program when the grant was awarded, County staff underestimated the time and cost of managing these complex projects. The purpose of this amendment is to adjust the overall budget for the project management task, as well as update the rate sheet for WLTRG employees retroactive to January 1, 2026.

**Funding and Source**

The proposed amendment is for \$80,000 bringing the total contract amount to \$200,000. The 2026 FCZD Budget has adequate budget authority for this work. Costs associated with this scope of work are eligible for reimbursement under the HMGP elevation grants.

Please contact Julie Anderson at extension 6258, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this contract.