



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *ek*

FROM: Laura Frolich, Assistant Public Works Director

RE: Temporary Passenger Ferry Service to and from Lummi Island

DATE: June 26, 2025

Enclosed are two (2) originals of the contract between San Juan Cruises and Whatcom County for Temporary Passenger Ferry Service to and from Lummi Island for your review and signature.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive and Whatcom County Council enter into a contract with San Juan Cruises for \$118,809.60 for Temporary Passenger Ferry Service to and from Lummi Island for the 2026 dry dock period, and continued temporary ferry service throughout the year as identified in the contract document.

Background and Purpose

Proposals were duly advertised and submitted for Temporary Passenger Ferry Service to and from Lummi Island (RFP 25-02). The County requests proposals for three types of service: 1) Passenger Service utilizing floating docks, 2) Passenger Service not requiring floating docks, and 3) Vehicle Ferry Service. The County received one proposal for Passenger Service utilizing float docks. We did not receive any proposals for the other two types of service.

The only bidder, San Juan Cruises, quoted the following rates: The daily rate for October 1 through May 30 is \$4200/day plus local tax of 8.8%. This time period coincides with the annual 2026 dry dock. The daily rate for June 1 through September 30 is \$8400/day plus local tax of 8.8%, if needed for emergencies during that time period.

Funding Amount and Source

Adequate funding exists within the 2026 budget. The 2026 dry dock is expected to last three (3) weeks and is expected to occur during the daily rate for October 1 through May 30 is \$4200/day plus local tax of 8.8%. We have added in a 5 day buffer into this contract. 26 days @ 4200/day plus local tax of 8.8% is 118,809.60. A local CPI rate adjustment will be added each renewal year per the bid terms.

The contract will be valid from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026. This contract includes the option of up to four (4) additional one-year contract renewals/extension for a potential total of five (5) years.

Difference from Previous Contract

The contract was last bid in 2020 with four annual renewals. The previous contract amount (San Juan Cruises) was for a daily rate of September 1 through April 30 was \$3200/day plus local tax and May 1 through August 31 was \$6400/day plus local tax. The CPI rate adjustment was in place for the previous contract.

Thank you for your time considering this contract. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Frolich at extension 6205 or Chantelle Russell at extension 6235.