

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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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

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

DATE: October 5, 2023

RE: Amendment No. 2 – Agreement Between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. for Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction Study

Please find attached for your review a copy of the Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement Between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. for Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction Study (Whatcom County Contract No. 202211007). The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive to sign this amendment to the contract.

Background and Purpose

This amendment provides funding to complete the final two years of a three-year investigation to quantify the timing and magnitude of groundwater pumping on streamflow depletion. Tasks include installation of monitoring wells, aquifer testing, groundwater and surface water level monitoring, data analysis, and incorporation of data into an existing groundwater model. This information is crucial to developing projects that will provide sufficient water to meet our out of stream needs while protecting and enhancing instream flows necessary to sustain our aquatic ecosystems.

Funding Amount and Source

This amendment to the agreement with Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. will provide an additional \$364,486 for a total budget of \$463,678 to support the groundwater-surface water interaction study. This amendment is fully funded through forthcoming grant agreement with the Department of Ecology as authorized in the 2024 Washington State Operating Budget. Although expenditures for this amendment are authorized to begin on July 1, 2023, reimbursement for expenditures will not be available until after the Department of Ecology files a general stream adjudication in Whatcom County Superior Court anticipated to happen in Spring 2024. Budget authority for 2023 expenditures were authorized by Council in Supplemental Budget Request #3967. Expenditures for 2024 are included in the 2024

proposed Flood Control Zone District budget. Expenditures for 2025 will be included in the 2025 Flood Control Zone District budget.

Differences from Previous Agreement/Contract

This amendment provides funding to complete the final two years of a three-year investigation to quantify the timing and magnitude of groundwater pumping on streamflow depletion. Tasks include installation of monitoring wells, aquifer testing, groundwater and surface water level monitoring, data analysis, and incorporation of data into an existing groundwater model. This amendment also extends the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225 or Gary Stoyka at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.