

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings  
Director**




**NATURAL RESOURCES**

322 N. Commercial, Suite 110  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Telephone: (360) 778-6230  
FAX: (360) 778-6231  
[www.whatcomcounty.us](http://www.whatcomcounty.us)

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council  
Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

**THROUGH:** Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

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

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**RE:** Grant approval requested for Whatcom Compound Flood Vulnerability & Risk Assessment project funded by Department of Ecology's Shorelands SMP Competitive Grant

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**Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, and the County Council enter into an interagency agreement between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and the Whatcom County for Whatcom County Compound Flood Vulnerability and Risk Assessment planning purposes.

**Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County identified the need to assess sea level rise impacts along the Whatcom County coastal shorelines to inform land use and preparedness planning efforts. The Department of Ecology offered a competitive grant opportunity to support implementation of sea level rise planning efforts. Whatcom County staff coordinated with partners in the county, including the cities of Bellingham, Ferndale, and Blaine, the Port of Bellingham, the Lummi Nation, the US Geological Survey, and Washington SeaGrant, to develop an application to this grant opportunity entitled Whatcom Compound Flood Vulnerability & Risk Assessment. Whatcom County's application was selected for funding and will allow the Public Works Department to convene a multi-jurisdictional team (parties listed above) to develop a Vulnerability & Risk Assessment for Whatcom County marine and lower Nooksack riverine shorelines using Compound Flood Models. These models use sea level rise, tidal, wave, storm surge, and stream discharge data to assess vulnerability and risks exacerbated by climate change to public infrastructure and private development (assets), ecosystem functions/values (systems), and populations.

The results of this project will not only build mutual understanding of potential sea level rise and compound flood impacts, but will provide a high-resolution assessment of vulnerability and risk throughout the project area to inform planning and preparedness efforts including but not limited to land use regulations, natural hazard planning, public infrastructure planning, and other related efforts. Work will be conducted utilizing a consultant under a separate contract.

**Funding Amount and Source**

Grant funds will be awarded in the amount of \$100,000 from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Shorelands SMP Competitive Grant program.

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

Encl.  
Contract