



# MEMORANDUM

<b>To:</b>	The Honorable Whatcom County Council
<b>From:</b>	Jake Logan, Executive Staff
<b>Subject:</b>	REPORT – Emergency Contracts Executed Pursuant to the December 9, 2025 Proclamation of Emergency (No. 25-4783)
<b>Date:</b>	February 12, 2026

This memorandum is submitted to the Whatcom County Council for **informational purposes** pursuant to Whatcom County Code (WCC) 3.08.090(A)(6), which requires the County Executive to submit to the County Council any contract executed pursuant to a declaration of emergency under WCC 3.08.060(B). This report provides a comprehensive accounting of all contracts entered into under the Proclamation of Emergency issued on December 9, 2025, in response to severe flood conditions across Whatcom County.

No action is requested. This report is submitted for informational purposes in accordance with WCC 3.08.090(A)(6).

## Background

On December 9, 2025, County Executive Satpal Sidhu issued a Proclamation of Emergency for Whatcom County in response to severe weather storms, high winds, flooding, mudslides, and landslide risk. Subsequently, significant portions of East Whatcom County experienced catastrophic flooding, resulting in evacuations of the cities of Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas, as well as unincorporated areas of Whatcom County.

Under RCW 38.52.070(2), the Proclamation authorized the County to “enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster,” effectively waiving “time-consuming procedures and formalities” including competitive bidding requirements, budget law limitations, and provisions pertaining to the performance of public work.

Additionally, on December 17, 2025, the County Executive issued a Proclamation of Emergency authorizing three temporary flood debris disposal sites at Recycling & Disposal Services (Ferndale), Republic Services (Ferndale), and Stremler Gravel Site (Sumas), effective for 60 days.

## Legal Authority

WCC 3.08.060(B) provides that “in the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the county would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon an order of the county executive declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting same, the requirements governing competitive bids with reference to any purchase or contract may be waived pursuant to RCW 36.32.270.”

WCC 3.08.090(A)(6) further provides that contracts executed “Pursuant to and within the scope of a declaration of emergency made by the county executive under WCC 3.08.060(B)” are exempt from the requirement for County Council approval prior to execution, but that “The county executive, pursuant to a

declaration of emergency, shall submit the contract to the county council for informational purposes at the council's next regular or special meeting.”

**Fiscal Impact**

Emergency contracts with known amounts total \$1,290,643.15. Primary funding sources include cost center 18571013 (debris disposal, hazardous materials, decontamination, and construction), cost center 13511061 (emergency response coordination, volunteer management, and recovery), Flood Control Zone District funds (levee repair), local road funds (road and bridge repair), and cost center 19088001 (emergency construction). The County continues to pursue reimbursement through applicable state and federal emergency assistance programs.

**Enclosures:**

- Proclamation of Emergency – Winter Weather Event Dec25-4783 (December 9, 2025)
- Proclamation of Emergency – Temporary Debris Disposal Sites (December 17, 2025)
- Flood-Related Emergency Contracts – Spreadsheet

**Contact:**

Randy Rydel, Whatcom County Finance Division  
Jed Holmes, Whatcom County Executive's Office  
Jake Logan, Whatcom County Executive's Office