

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *ek*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager
Jon-Paul Shannahan, Environmental Programs Manager *JPS*
Austin Rose, Natural Resources Specialist II

DATE: September 8, 2025

RE: Interagency Agreement #2026-30: Whatcom County LIO – FFY 2026-2028 Funding

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, and the County Council, acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, enter into an interagency agreement between the State of Washington Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District, acting as the fiscal agent for the Whatcom County Local Integrating Organization (LIO), to coordinate the Whatcom County LIO to lead Puget Sound Recovery.

Background and Purpose

The WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board acts as Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for water resources programs in the Whatcom County region. The WRIA 1 Management Team's approval of the FFY 2025-2028 LIO Coordination Scope of Work for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District, as fiscal agent, acting on behalf of the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board, for negotiating a contract with the Puget Sound Partnership is pending. This agreement provides funds for tasks related to 1) developing and updating Action Plans and other local plans (e.g., Ecosystem Recovery Plans), 2) coordinating local and regional planning, investments, and implementation efforts, 3) engaging partners in the LIO, including Tribes, local and state agencies, and community stakeholders, and 4) tracking progress and communicating results toward ecosystem recovery.

This agreement is a 3-year contract (FFY 2026-2028), providing \$143,750 for Year 1, and \$150,000 for Year 2 and Year 3. Task 1 is required and very similar to the past five LIO coordination grants. Funding in Task 2 provides funding for the LIO to support locally tailored ecosystem recovery plans and implementation activities that advance Puget Sound recovery, adapting annually to better reflect local needs, challenges, priorities, and opportunities.

Funding Amount and Source

This grant agreement with the Puget Sound Partnership provides \$443,750 to complete tasks as outlined in the scope of work. Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 or Austin Rose at 6286 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.