



MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Jake Logan, Administrative Services Coordinator – Executive Staff
Subject: Economic Development Investment Program Interlocal Loan & Grant Agreement with Port of Bellingham – Fairhaven Marine Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvements
Date: January 30th, 2026

Background and Purpose

The Whatcom County Public Utilities Fund is often referred to colloquially as the EDI Fund.

The EDI Program is authorized under RCW 82.14.370, which allows the County to retain a portion of sales and use tax to finance public facilities that support economic development and job creation. EDI applications are reviewed by the EDI Board and transmitted with recommendations to the Council. The EDI Board recommended funding this application on August 5th, 2025. The Council discussed and unanimously concurred with the EDI Board's recommendation on September 9th, 2025, clearing this agreement for final approval and execution. Through this agreement, the County will provide EDI funding to support infrastructure improvements at the Fairhaven Marine Industrial Park (FMIP), a 15-acre working waterfront site at 801 Harris Avenue that serves multiple maritime employers and is vulnerable to flooding.

The project modernizes and adds resilience to FMIP's core utilities by replacing aging stormwater and wastewater systems, constructing a 500-foot protective sea berm, elevating site grades to reduce tidal flood risk, and undergrounding electrical and telecommunications infrastructure. The improvements extend essential infrastructure to vacant Lot 8, where the Port has completed 60% design plans for a 28,000-square-foot boat manufacturing facility in coordination with Birdon USA, an existing FMIP tenant performing federal maritime contracts that seeks to expand and add up to 50 family-wage jobs.

Funding Amount and Source

The County will provide \$3,000,000 in EDI funding from the Public Utilities Improvement Fund, consisting of a **\$2,000,000 loan at 1% annual interest over a 20-year term and a \$1,000,000 grant**, with the Port providing matching funds to complete the \$7.43 million project. Grant funds will be disbursed first on a reimbursement basis upon submission of invoices and receipts to the County Executive's Office, and loan funds will be disbursed after all grant funding is exhausted. Loan repayment commences one year from the date of actual loan disbursement, with annual payments of \$110,830.63 which will return to the EDI Fund.

Please contact Jake Logan at extension 5211 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this agreement.