

PROPOSED BY: Public Works Department
INTRODUCTION DATE: August 10, 2021

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TITLE 17 FLOOD DAMAGE
PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, in January 2021 FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) began implementing new minimum requirements or Class prerequisites for freeboard for all participating CRS communities; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is a participating community in the CRS program and is required to adopt a floodplain management ordinance that meets the new CRS Class prerequisites prior to the scheduled cycle verification visit on October 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the CRS Floodplain Management Specialist and State NFIP coordinator have reviewed Whatcom County Code Title 17 for compliance with the new CRS Class prerequisites and found that minor revisions are required; and

WHEREAS, staff has revised Whatcom County Code Title 17 to include the amendments required for compliance to maintain current CRS Class 6 rating, which provides a 20% reduction on flood insurance premiums to the community; and

WHEREAS, failure to adopt these amendments prior to the date of cycle verification visit would reduce Whatcom County’s CRS rating to a Class 9, which only provides for a 5% reduction on flood insurance premiums to the community; and

WHEREAS, staff included additional amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 17 for compliance with FEMA’s recent policy update on agricultural and accessory structures including associated local variance process; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the amended Title 17 was held on September 14, 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Title 17 is hereby amended as indicated in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, County Clerk

Barry Buchanan Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied

/s/ Christopher Quinn, approved via e-mail /JL

Christopher Quinn
Senior Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

Date: _____