



**Elizabeth Kosa**  
Public Works Director

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

**Through:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

**From:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Division Manager *GS*  
Julie Anderson, River and Flood Manager *JAA*

**Subject:** City of Sumas – Flood Mitigation and Resilience Plan

**Date:** 05/26/2026

---

Enclosed is one (1) original of the Contract between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and SCJ Alliance for the City of Sumas- Flood Mitigation and Resilience Plan for your review and signature. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

## **Background and Purpose**

The FCZD was awarded up to \$559,000 in Commerce funding through the Community Development Block Grant program (Whatcom County contract #202507019) for planning activities to determine feasible projects that would reduce Nooksack River flood damage in and around the City of Sumas.

SCJ Alliance will facilitate a collaborative planning process with the Sumas community and the Whatcom County Floodplain Integrated Planning Reach 5 Team. The planning process will develop a locally supported vision for a more flood-resilient City of Sumas with additional capacity to prepare for, protect from, and recover rapidly from flood events. Tasks for phase 1 will include visioning for future growth and land use connections to the City of Sumas, risk-based flood resilience planning, development of localized mitigation options in and around the City of Sumas, regulatory program changes to ensure new development is protected consistent with Growth Management Act requirements and provisions of the National Flood Insurance Program, and a community engagement process.

## **Funding Amount and Source**

This contract will provide \$274,981.33 to support flood mitigation planning for the City of Sumas. This agreement is fully funded through Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds made available for flood mitigation planning as a result of the November 2021 disaster declaration (contract #202507019). All terms and conditions in the CDBG grant agreement are carried forward to the SCJ Alliance agreement. Budget authority for this agreement is provided in the 2026 Public Works- River and Flood budget.

## **Procurement Method and Reason for Selection**

This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 25-78, "CONSULTANT PLANNING AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR:

FLOOD MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY PLANNING FOR SUMAS, WA (NO. 19082578) LOCATED IN WHATCOM COUNTY." Whatcom County received four responses to the RFP and the firm was selected based on qualifications of the project team working in floodplain environments on large-scale planning projects.

Please contact Julie Anderson, River and Flood Manager, at 360-778-6258 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.