

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**




NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Whatcom County Council
The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 
Chris Elder, Senior Planner

DATE: July 23, 2024

RE: Contract for Phase 2 Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Management Solutions

Please find attached for your review a copy of the Phase 2 Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Management Solutions contract with Herrera Environmental Consultants. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council review and authorize the County Executive to sign this agreement.

Background and Purpose

Climate change continues to challenge governments to respond and adapt to changing conditions. Through proactive assessment and collaborative planning, Whatcom County and its partners hope to understand future impacts along marine and riverine shorelines to support resilient communities and ecosystems. Whatcom County received \$250,000 in funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Shorelands Shoreline Planning Competitive Grant program and the attached contract with Herrera will be funded entirely through this grant. This contract with Herrera will support development of a Phase 2 vulnerability assessment for Whatcom County marine and Nooksack riverine shorelines upstream to Deming (including the Everson Overflow) under projected climate change scenarios and development of shoreline management solutions.

The attached contract with Herrera Environmental Consultants will execute this Phase 2 climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation and resilience planning project for Whatcom County marine and Nooksack riverine shorelines. Whatcom County and its partners will use the assessment to inform and support development of needed improvements to shoreline and land use codes and initiate adaptation planning efforts for impacted communities.

A separate interlocal agreement with Western Washington University will support development of refined bluff erosion models under different sea level rise scenarios will be submitted as a separate item.

Funding Amount and Source

This contract will provide \$215,000 to support development of a Phase 2 Climate Vulnerability Assessment and development of shoreline management solutions. This agreement is fully funded through Washington State Department of Ecology's Shorelands Shoreline Planning Competitive Grant (Whatcom County Contract #202401027). Budget authority for this contract is provided in the supplemented 2024 Climate Action budget.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Contract