

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *Eak*

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

DATE: January 24, 2024

RE: Grant Agreement with Washington Department of Ecology to conduct a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Develop Shoreline Management Solutions

Please find attached for your review a copy of the grant agreement between Washington State Department of Ecology and Whatcom County to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment and develop shoreline management solutions. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through AdobeSign.

Requested Action

Staff requests approval to enter into a Shoreline Planning Competitive Grant agreement with Washington Department of Ecology to complete the Whatcom Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Shoreline Management Solutions.

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 completed a Phase 1 sea level rise vulnerability assessment in 2022 covering the marine and lower Nooksack riverine shoreline and focusing on Sandy Point and Birch Bay.

The purpose of this agreement is to provide funding to implement a Phase 2 vulnerability assessment for Whatcom County marine and Nooksack riverine shorelines upstream to Deming under projected climate change scenarios. This Phase 2 project will use an expanded marine bluff retreat assessment and updated Coastal Storm Model System for Puget Sound (CoSMoS) data that integrates discharge impacts of streams along the marine shoreline and will extend the riverine flood model analysis up the Nooksack River to Deming including the Everson Overflow.

Funding Amount and Source

This grant agreement will provide \$250,000 to conduct the Phase 2 assessment.

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

Encl.