



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 Manager *gs*

Prepared by: Austin Rose, Natural Resource Specialist II

Subject: State of Washington Department of Ecology Agreement No. SEATHA-2026-WhCoPW-00029

Date: June 23, 2026

Enclosed for your review is one (1) original of the Agreement No. SEATHA-2026-WhCoPW-00029 between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Olympia Oyster Restoration in North Chuckanut Bay. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Background and Purpose

Olympia oysters play a crucial role in the marine ecosystem, increasing local habitat structure and complexity, improving water quality, and supporting food webs. The Whatcom MRC is committed to restoring Olympia oysters in North Chuckanut Bay, with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining population exceeding 2 million individual oysters.

Funding Amount and Source

The Whatcom MRC Olympia Oyster Restoration in North Chuckanut Bay Project has been selected for funding through the Department of Ecology 2026 Terry Husseman Account Grant (Coastal Protection Fund). This agreement provides \$50,000 for the period of 07/01/2026 – 07/01/2028 for the completion of this project. These funds will be expended during 2027 and 2028 and will be included in the Natural Resources budget for those years. Council authorization is required as the grant exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Austin Rose, Natural Resource Specialist II at extension 6286 or Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.