

**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, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 
Doug Ranney, P.E., County Engineer **DWR**
James Lee, P.E., Engineering Manager 

DATE: August 26, 2024

RE: **Black Slough Barrier Culverts Replacement**
Natural Resources Cost Center No. 824001, CRP No. 924007
Whatcom County A&E Professional Services Negotiated Hourly Rate Consultant Agreement with Coffman Engineers

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive to sign the Whatcom County A&E Professional Services Negotiated Hourly Rate Consultant Agreement with Coffman Engineers for the Black Slough Barrier Culverts Replacement Project. The authorized contract will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

Background and Purpose

The WRIA1 Salmonid Recovery Plan guides recovery of ESA listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other salmonids in the Nooksack River and adjacent coastal streams. One component of the plan is correcting fish passage barriers that block access to tributary, floodplain and estuarine habitats. Additionally, Whatcom County entered a Memorandum of Agreement with salmon co-managers in 2023 to guide remediation of County-owned culverts with fish passage barriers. Public Works Natural Resources and Bridge and Hydraulics have created a cross-divisional team to expedite culvert remediation. This contract advances this work in Black Slough within the South Fork Nooksack watershed.

Coffman Engineers was deemed by the selection committee as the most qualified firm following response to Request for Qualifications No. 24-40. This contract provides for Phase 1 of the project including preliminary engineering, alternatives analysis, and preliminary designs for the remediation of five (5) fish passage barrier culverts in the Black Slough watershed.

Funding Amount and Source

This contract is in the amount of \$435,000.00. Phase 1 of the project is partially funded with \$240,000.00 through the HSIL grant with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to expedite WRIA 1 fish barrier remediation (WCC # 202401021). The remaining \$195,000.00 portion of the contract is locally funded through the Road Fund. Budget authority for this contract is provided in the 2024 Natural

Resources budget and the Annual Construction Program. The project is listed as Item No. 43 on the 2024 Annual Construction Program.

Please contact Ben Floyd at extension 6252 or Erika Douglas at extension 6294, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this contract.

Encl.