

**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 
Erika Douglas, Environmental Programs Manager

DATE: January 22, 2024

RE: Grant Agreement with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife for Fish Passage Barrier Remediation Program

Please find attached for your review a copy of the grant agreement between Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for Capacity to Expedite WRIA 1 Culvert and Fish Barrier Prioritization, Design, and Implementation. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through AdobeSign.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive to sign this agreement.

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.

The purpose of this grant agreement is to expedite WRIA 1 fish passage barrier remediation. This agreement supports building staff capacity, coordinating prioritization with other WRIA 1 partners, coordinating fish passage and habitat assessment training, completing pre-design for 5 priority fish passage barriers, and share project information with community members and other professionals in the Puget Sound region.

Funding Amount and Source

This grant agreement will provide \$800,250 to support fish passage barrier remediation in WRIA 1. Funding originates from the Environmental Protection Agency National Estuary Program and is routed through the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Budget authority to implement the labor portion of this agreement is provided in the 2024 Public Works budget. Budget authority to implement other portions of the agreement will be included in a forthcoming budget supplement request.

Please contact John Thompson at extension 6295 or Erika Douglas at extension 6294, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.