

**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 *EK*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*
Jaimie Baxter, Program Specialist

DATE: September 8, 2025

RE: Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. Contract for Adjudication Technical Assistance

Please find attached for your review a copy of the contract between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Geosyntec Consulting, Inc. for WRIA 1 water rights adjudication technical assistance. The authorized agreement will be signed electronically through DocuSign.

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

In 2025, the Department of Ecology began a water rights adjudication process in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 1, commonly known as the Nooksack Basin, covering the majority of both incorporated and unincorporated Whatcom County. Landowners who use surface water or groundwater will need to file a court claim form within one year of receiving their summons and self-report details about their historical and current water use. Using funds from the Washington State Legislature to Whatcom County for water rights adjudication assistance, this contract with Geosyntec Consulting, Inc. will continue to prioritize increasing public awareness and equipping water users with the resources, guidance, and support they need to navigate the legal process to file timely and accurate court claim forms.

Assistance will focus particularly on permit-exempt well users, Group B well users, farms, and small water districts in the WRIA 1 region. Activities will include updating technical assistance materials and tools, presentations at public events, workshops for one-on-one support, and responding to public inquiries about the adjudication filing process.

Funding Amount and Source

This contract is a continuation of services and will provide \$105,000 to support providing filing assistance to affected water users. This contract is fully funded through Ecology grant agreement number OTGP-2026-WhCoPW-00098.

Please contact Jaimie Baxter at extension 6247 or Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Contact Information Sheet
Contract agreement