

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa  
Interim 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, Interim Public Works Director

**FROM:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager   
John N. Thompson, Senior Salmon Recovery Planner 

**DATE:** February 3, 2023

**RE:** **Interlocal Agreement with University of Washington School of Health Sciences**

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**Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive and the County Council, acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, enter into an Interlocal Agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and University of Washington School of Health Sciences to provide specialized technical support for an investigation into extrapolated initial recommended instream flow information and subsequent hydrologic updates in support of watershed and salmon recovery planning

**Background and Purpose**

The Watershed Staff Team (WST), through the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board, compiled a list of technical data needed to advance the implementation of the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Plan. Technical Study Need Item No. 1 - *Investigate extrapolated initial recommended Instream Flow Information as well as the subsequent hydrologic updates* was identified as a high priority. The extrapolated instream flow information was prepared by Utah State University to help the WST understand the instream flow needs of salmon within the framework of a decision support system (DSS).

A version of the DSS was delivered to the County in 2008, but was not further developed. The purpose of this agreement is to access the expertise of Dr. Christina Norton who was one of the original investigators and who developed an updated hydrology model for the County previously. Her expertise supports an investigation to explore the DSS and related information, determine to what extent salmon habitat flow information has been extrapolated to other streams with similar characteristics, and complete the extrapolation if necessary using Dr. Norton's updated watershed hydrology. Project deliverables will build institutional knowledge among WST entities and determine the utility of this previous body of work for use in guiding future water resource solutions.

This project will proceed in phases with this first phase being to determine what information is available, the level of functionality, and to develop a detailed scope that outlines the work necessary to complete the technical study need as envisioned by the WST. This agreement may be amended as future phases are scoped and budgets determined.

**Selection Process**

Dr. Christina Norton, currently with the UW School of Health, provides specialized expertise and institutional knowledge with the extrapolation and hydrologic models being evaluated and can offer knowledge not otherwise available.

**Funding Amount and Source**

This contract in the amount of \$12,250.00 is funded through 2023 budget authority under the Public Works, Natural Resource Division budget.

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