

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings  
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:** Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

**FROM:** Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 

**RE:** Interlocal Agreement with Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom  
County for Supplemental Funding of Regional Water Supply Plan  
Preparation

**DATE:** July 29, 2022

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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 for the sum of \$16,000 with Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County (PUD), for the purpose of developing and implementing a collaborative water solutions table.

**Background and Purpose**

The PUD is a member of the Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 1 Watershed Management Board and has been an active participant in regional watershed planning activities for more than 25 years. The WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board has developed a five-year implementation strategy that outlines work to be done from 2018 to 2023 to continue to make progress on resolving our water challenges. The PUD has taken the lead on the development of a Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) for all of WRIA 1 that will outline strategies and actions to address our collective water supply needs. The RWSP will benefit all residents of Whatcom County, most of which are not customers of the PUD. The PUD was awarded a grant from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) through the National Estuary Program to prepare the RWSP. During the process of the developing the RWSP, the PUD identified needed work that is not currently funded in the WDFW grant. This work consists of quantifying current and future water needs and analyzing water supply alternatives. PUD pursued and was awarded additional grant funding for this work, but it was not sufficient to fund all of it. This work is necessary to

complete the RWSP by the end of 2022. A delay in the preparation of the RWSP would likely impact other watershed planning activities currently underway or planned. The PUD does not currently have access to funds to complete this work. The Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District included \$250,000 in the 2022 FCZD budget to be used for the advancement of collaborative water planning processes. The work included under this agreement is consistent with the purpose of these funds.

**Funding Amount and Source**

The interlocal agreement is not to exceed \$16,000. There are sufficient funds in the 2022 FCZD budget to fund this agreement.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 for any clarification or additional information on the agreement and the associated project.