



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Louws, County Executive
Members of the Whatcom County Council

FROM: Marina Engels, Deputy Clerk of the Council

RE: Agreement with Whatcom Conservation District for Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program

DATE: January 29, 2019

Enclosed is a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Conservation District for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The general purpose or objective of this Agreement is to provide a robust Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program that consists of outreach, education and technical assistance to the Whatcom County communities most at risk from wildfire in Whatcom County. The primary customers for this service are communities identified as high and extreme risk to wildfire as identified in the NFPA 2006 Wildfire Risk Assessment.

Services will include:

A) Provide Technical Assistance for Two New Communities Working to Reduce Wildfire Risk:

- Attend a minimum of two community meetings to educate residents about wildfire risk and preparedness
- Provide 20 individual home risk assessments using the best available science from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Complete a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Assist the community in writing a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan
- Assist the community in hosting a wildfire education/outreach event and/or carrying out a mitigation project such as hazardous fuels reduction and chipping.
- Hire or otherwise make available chipping services to carry out mitigation projects.

B) Ongoing Technical Assistance for Communities Continuing to Work to Reduce Wildfire Risk and renew Firewise Communities/USA recognition:

- Assist the community in updating their Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan as needed
- Assist the community in implementation of a community-wide risk reduction activity as needed
- Provide administrative assistance to communities renewing NFPA Firewise Communities/USA program recognition

C) General Wildfire Risk Reduction Outreach and Education:

- Provide outreach and educational materials, including but not limited to; brochures, handouts, posters and banners
- Promote the program with social media, mailings, and publications
- Provide presentations to community groups and partners (minimum of 4)
- Present program using informational displays at community events (minimum of 4)

D) Partnership Building

- Build and strengthen partnerships in Whatcom County to support program efforts and ensure a unified message to residents
- Build support and set a foundation for development of a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan

This funding will allow the Whatcom Conservation District to continue facilitating the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program. Deliverables of the program will include: detailed records of grant deliverables and periodic reporting of those deliverables including remaining work to be completed. Progress reports and presentations will be shared with community leaders and the County Council to inform them of the progress and accomplishments. Details of this outcome will be provided upon request.

▪ Funding Amount and Source

Funding for this contract is included in the 2019-2020 Budget in the amount of \$25,000 per year for two years for a total amount of \$50,000.

▪ Differences from Previous Contract

This is a new contract.

Please contact me at extension 5019 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Thank you.