

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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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 *LBF* 5/22/24

FROM: Kraig Olason, Stormwater Program Manager *ko*

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: Resolution Amending Chapter 100.07: Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic
Resources Management District Funding Mechanism

Requested Action

Please find enclosed for your review and consideration a proposed resolution to amend the Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resource Management District Funding Mechanism (WCC 100.07) and Rate Resolutions (Res 2008-049 & 2008-050).

Background and Purpose

The Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resource Management (BBWARM) District service charge has remained unchanged since its inception in 2009, but operating and capital costs have risen 50-62% due to inflation. There exists an extensive list of capital improvement projects needing construction in Birch Bay, with more added every year due to aging infrastructure, unprecedented storm events, climate change and other factors. The community demand for projects has increased over the years, but the amount of revenue to complete the projects has not.

The current service charge is based on the density of impervious surface area on a property, such as pavement, rooftops, driveways, and parking areas. The average single-family home in Birch Bay has 4,000 square feet of impervious surface area and pays \$75 annually. A financial consultant was hired in August 2023 to conduct a rate study and funding analysis for BBWARM. In order to meet BBWARM's financial obligations, including capital, operating, and policy-driven commitments over the next ten years, the consultant determined the total rate revenue requirements and proposed a new rate structure that will be phased in over four years (2025-2028) and then adjusted annually for inflation going forward. The proposed changes to the unit rates, service charge adjustments and exemptions are shown in the code revisions in Exhibit A.

Please contact Kraig Olason at extension 6301 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposed resolution.

Encl.