



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu Whatcom County Executive
for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Public Works Director *ek*

FROM: Julie Anderson, River and Flood Manager *JAA*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*

RE: City of Lynden – Cost Reimbursement Agreement
Funding 30% Design of Phase 1 of the Mouw Ditch Early Action Project

DATE: January 7, 2026

Enclosed is a cost reimbursement agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the City of Lynden (City) for your review and signature.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the FCZD Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement with the City of Lynden to pass through Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant funding to support 30% design of Phase 1 of the Mouw Ditch early action project.

Background and Purpose

The 2023-25 Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant includes a task for early action projects with a task budget of \$500,000. The City of Lynden has been partnering with the Bertrand Watershed Improvement District (BWID) to develop a project to address existing drainage problems on Mouw Ditch which is a tributary to Bertrand Creek. Replacement of undersized culverts on Mouw Ditch could exacerbate existing flooding problems downstream at Rathbone Road and Bertrand Creek. The City previously requested financial assistance to conduct a hydrologic and hydraulic evaluation of the Mouw Ditch and Bertrand Creek system utilizing funding from the '21-23 FbD grant. This work was completed under a separate cost reimbursement agreement that is now expired. This newly proposed cost reimbursement agreement will advance the Mouw Ditch early action project through development of 30% design plans for Phase 1 utilizing funding from the '23-'25 FbD grant.

The FbD grant requires us to vet all early action project proposals through the FLIP Steering Committee to ensure consistency with FLIP goals and to obtain prior approval of early action projects from the Department of Ecology. The FLIP Steering Committee unanimously supported the use of '23-'25 early action funding for the Mouw Ditch project 30% design of Phase 1, and we have received approval from our grant manager at Ecology.

Funding Amount and Source

The proposed cost reimbursement agreement is for \$113,600 (80% of \$142,000). Funding for reimbursement is from the '23-'25 FbD early action grant task and the 20% match will be provided by the City of Lynden. Total 20% match provided by the City of Lynden will be \$28,400 (20% of \$142,000). There is sufficient budget capacity in the 2026 FCZD budget for this agreement.

Please contact Julie Anderson at extension 6285, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this Contract.