



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: City of Bellingham – Homeless Encampment Solid Waste Removal Interlocal Agreement
DATE: September 14, 2023

Attached is an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Homeless encampments can present a significant health and safety risk to occupants, neighboring residents, businesses, passing motorists, pedestrian access, and roadway workers. Illegal disposal of garbage and human waste can contaminate the environment, including soil, groundwater and surface waterways, spread disease, attract vermin, and disrupt the ecosystem. This Agreement dedicates funding to the City of Bellingham for subcontractors working to remove solid and hazardous waste related to homeless encampments and illegal dump sites.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, is provided by the Washington State Department of Health's Consolidated Contract – Foundational Public Health Services Funds. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

▪ **Differences between Previous Agreements**

This is a new agreement and includes no significant revisions from the previous agreement ending on 06/30/2023 (WC Contract #202211036).

Please contact Sue Sullivan, Environmental Health Manager at 360-778-6020 (SSullivan@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.