



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Champ Thomaskutty, Director
RE: Washington State Department of Ecology – Well Delegation Interlocal Agreement
DATE: MARCH 25, 2026

Attached is an Interlocal Agreement between Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and Whatcom County and for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

In accordance with WAC 173-160, this Agreement delegates authority to Whatcom County to administer and enforce the well sealing, tagging, and decommissioning portions of the water well construction regulations. This Agreement requires the County to inspect a minimum of 40% of water wells being drilled annually in Whatcom County for proper sealing and tagging and 40% of wells being decommissioned annually in Whatcom County.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

DOE will pay Whatcom County at a rate of 50% of the notification fees collected for water wells constructed and 50% of the notification fees collected by DOE for water wells constructed and decommissioned within Whatcom County. The County receives approximately \$13,500 per year for this work, which covers the County's costs for providing the inspections and required reporting activities. These funds . Council authorization is required pursuant to RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new agreement; however, revenue for these services has been provided through previous agreements since 2008. This Agreement includes no significant revisions from the agreement ending on 06/30/2026 (WC Contract #202108025).

Please contact Sue Sullivan, Environmental Health Manager at 360-778-6026 (SSullivan@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.