



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jack Louws, County Executive
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner *MA*

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director *MP*

RE: Contract with the City of Bellingham relating to Buildable Lands

DATE: August 26, 2019

Enclosed are two (2) originals of the contract between the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County for your review.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Washington State Legislature approved Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5254 in 2017. This new legislation, relating to the Growth Management Act, imposes new Review and Evaluation (AKA buildable lands) program requirements on Whatcom County and the cities. The State Legislature allocated \$225,000 to Whatcom County for state fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) and another \$225,000 for state fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) in association with the new requirements. This funding will be used to reimburse County staff time & expenses, reimburse city expenses, and hire a consultant.

This contract is to reimburse the City of Bellingham for work that will be done on the buildable lands program and related matters (there will also be separate contracts with the six small cities).

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The State legislature allocated \$450,000 to Whatcom County to fund activities associated with the new buildable lands requirements over the next two years. The County is entering into a subcontract with the City of Bellingham for \$85,113.56 to perform tasks in association with the County-wide buildable lands effort.

Please contact Matt Aamot at extension 5939, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.