

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa  
Director**



**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *L.B.F.*

**FROM:** Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *(Signature)*

**DATE:** November 17, 2025

**RE:** Presentation and Discussion of Land and Water Integration Study prepared by the Washington Water Trust with Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 1 Planning Unit

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**Requested Action**

On behalf of the Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 1 Planning Unit, Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive and the County Council provide time on the December 9<sup>th</sup> Planning and Development Committee agenda for the Planning Unit to present the results of a Land and Water Integration Study and engage in a discussion regarding the results.

**Background and Purpose**

The WRIA 1 Planning Unit has engaged in several discussions over recent years with the County Council regarding the need to align water resources with land use planning. The Planning Unit requested funding to conduct a study to identify existing and potential water resources for existing zoning designation within three Rural Study Areas particularly in consideration of climate change impacts on water resources for instream, watershed and consumptive uses. This study built off of existing efforts, including the Agricultural Land Assessment and Coordinated Water System Plan Update, to evaluate the relationship between land use and water supply and develop recommendations to bring land use and water supply into balance and ensure long term resilience to climate impacts. Whatcom County entered into a contract with Washington Water Trust to conduct the study. The Planning Unit would like to present the results of the study to the County Council and engage in a discussion about potential next steps.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.