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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers
Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, PDS *MP*

FROM: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, PDR Program Administrator *BLS*

DATE: February 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Supplemental Budget Request to cover easement monitoring and baseline documentation preparations costs for the Seed Orchard Forestry Conservation Easement acquisition

Introduction

The Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Oversight Committee recommended purchase of a forestry conservation easement on the Seed Orchard forest property. Whatcom County Council approved the acquisition of this easement through Resolution 2019-026. A supplemental budget request was submitted and approved in 2019 to cover all costs associated with the closing of this forestry conservation easement. Due to a delay in finalizing the easement, not all of the 2019 supplemental budget request was expended. This 2020 supplemental budget request covers the remaining expenses, including the easement monitoring and enforcement fees and baseline documentation costs for the completion of the Seed Orchard easement. The easement cost and escrow and closing costs were paid in 2019.

Background and Purpose

The Seed Orchard forestry conservation easement represents the first forestry conservation easement enacted through the PDR program. Completion of this easement brings an additional 84 acres to the total protected acreage in Whatcom County. Whatcom Land Trust developed a baseline condition report for the easement area and will be the legally responsible party to monitor and enforce terms of the conservation easement.