

# Supplemental Budget Request

*Status:* Pending

**Public Works**

**Natural Resources**

Suppl ID # 3621    **Fund** 169    **Cost Center** 169122    **Originator:** Gary Stoyka

**Expenditure Type:** One-Time    **Year** 2    2022    **Add'l FTE**     **Add'l Space**     **Priority** 1

**Name of Request:** *Climate Vulnerability Assessment*

<b>X</b>		3/9/22
<b>Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)</b>		<b>Date</b>

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	4334.0021	Watershed	(\$100,000)
	6630	Professional Services	\$100,000
	7190	Other Miscellaneous	\$10,000
	8301	Operating Transfer In	(\$10,000)
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>

**1a. Description of request:**

This SBR will provide budget authorization to implement the Whatcom Compound Flood Vulnerability & Risk Assessment and provide funding for miscellaneous climate action expenses. Whatcom County – Public Works will convene a multi-jurisdictional team to develop a Vulnerability & Risk Assessment (VRA) for Whatcom County marine and lower Nooksack riverine shorelines using Compound Flood Models. These models use sea level rise, tidal, wave, storm surge, and stream discharge data to assess vulnerability and risks exacerbated by climate change to public infrastructure and private development (assets), ecosystem functions and values (systems), and populations. This request includes budget authority to accept a \$100,000 grant and conduct the vulnerability assessment.

In 2021, the County Council approved the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan and authorized the hiring of a Climate Action Manager to develop a Climate Action Program. This request also includes \$10,000 to fund climate action related expenses that are likely to be incurred with the development of a Climate Action Program and the hiring of a Climate Action Manager.

**1b. Primary customers:**

Local governments and private landowners located near shorelines

**2. Problem to be solved:**

Climate change will greatly affect coastal areas of Whatcom County as a result of sea level rise, storm impacts, and groundwater level increases. These changes will have significant impact on public and private infrastructure located along the shoreline. Whatcom County and other local jurisdictions need to know the vulnerability of public and private infrastructure to climate change in order to properly craft policies, regulations, land use plans, infrastructure plans, maintenance plans, and mitigation plans to address projected climate impacts and build community resilience. Whatcom County has been awarded a grant to conduct such an assessment.

**3a. Options / Advantages:**

The County could choose to not accept the grant and either not do the vulnerability assessment at this time or do it later at County expense. The availability of grant funding and the need for this assessment makes this option the best option.

**3b. Cost savings:**

If this request is denied, the County will either not do the vulnerability assessment at this time or do it later at County expense. Approval of this request will save the County \$100,000 if the County chooses to do the assessment at another time at County expense. If the Council decides not to do the assessment at

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all, it will leave the County and other local governments without the tools necessary to plan for future infrastructure needs.

**4a. Outcomes:**

Whatcom County and other local governments will have an assessment of the vulnerability of public and private infrastructure to the impacts of climate change and allow these entities to better plan for the future.

**4b. Measures:**

The assessment will be completed.

**5a. Other Departments/Agencies:**

The climate vulnerability assessment will look at all County and private infrastructure that are susceptible to impacts from climate changes to coastal processes. This assessment will likely require involvement of the Public Works Department, Planning and Development Services Department, AS-Facilities, and Parks and Recreation Department. Other governments that have agreed to participate are the Cities of Bellingham, Blaine, and Ferndale, the Port of Bellingham, Lummi Nation and the U.S. Geological Survey

**5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:**

PDS - Jon-Paul Shannahan

Parks - Mike McFarlane

Facilities - Rob Ney

City of Bellingham - Seth Vidana

Port of Bellingham - Kurt Baumgarten

**6. Funding Source:**

Grant Funding - \$100,000

General Fund balance - \$10,000