



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Manger

RE: Birch Bay Library ARPA Funding

DATE: March 20, 2024

Enclosed is the Contract for Services between Whatcom County and Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) for your review and approval.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In April 2017, WCLS purchased a historic home to be rehabilitated into a new, proposed library. In 2023, the Washington State Legislature designated \$2,000,000 to support the capital costs associated with the rehabilitation construction costs for a new library. In an October 26, 2023 memo detailing the finalization of the ARPA Spending Plan, the Executive informed the Council that he intended to move forward with a contract to commit \$315,000 towards the construction of the library, to fill a gap on project costs. Whatcom County will reimburse architectural and engineering expenses as well as costs associated with Furniture, Fixture and Equipment purchases.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This project will be funded in the amount of \$315,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

If you have any questions, please contact Kayla Schott-Bresler at 5220 (kschottb@co.whatcom.wa.us).