

EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

County Courthouse
311 Grand Ave. Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Satpal Singh Sidhu

County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council members
FROM: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive
RE: EDI funded project – Blaine Wellfield
DATE: March 7, 2023

The County Executive is requesting the County Council to approve a contract between Whatcom County and the City of Blaine. This contract is a result of Council's approval of Ordinance 2022-053 to support the EDI Board's recommendation to provide EDI funding for the construction of eleven countywide infrastructure project located in the small cities.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In 2021, the County Council considered utilizing ARPA funds to stimulate the economy by funding Countywide infrastructure projects. At that time, there were questions about how this program would be developed and if it was more appropriate to use the EDI fund for these types of projects. In coordination with the City Mayors and representatives of the Port of Bellingham it became clear that the EDI Fund is the most appropriate funding source and that the fund has an available balance to accomplish the project list.

Although Blaine had submitted project proposals and were granted funding in 2022 they were unable to enter into the 2022 agreements. With new staff hired, they are now prepared to begin their project as presented with the exception of the location of the pump station. The Project was labelled as Harvey Road Pump Station, but recent water system studies have resulted in moving the location of the pump station from Harvey Road to the Wellfield location. The cost and project scope remain the same. The installation of the new water booster pump station will serve the current community and prepare for the residential growth that is occurring in East Blaine.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This contract will fulfill the County's support of the small cities EDI projects submitted in 2022. The Fund Source is the Public Utilities Improvement Fund (EDI).

▪ **Requested Council Motion**

The County Administration, with unanimous support from the EDI Board, requests the County Council to approve this contract for funding from the EDI Fund.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.