



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu Whatcom County Executive
for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

FROM: Paula J. Harris, P.E., River and Flood Manager *PJH*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GS*

RE: Joint Funding Agreement with United States Geological Survey
for Assessing Topographic Change of the Lower Nooksack River

DATE: January 8, 2024

Enclosed are two (2) originals of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the United States geological Survey (USGS) for your review and signature.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive and County Council, acting for the FCZD Board of Supervisors, enter into a Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS for assessing topographic change in the lower Nooksack River.

Background and Purpose

Recent flood observations and the latest bathymetry collected in 2022 indicate that the capacity of the river near Everson is less than it was in the early 1990's. This is based both on past channel change analyses performed by the USGS and hydraulic modeling. Due to the significant impacts associated with overflows at Everson, the FCZD is commissioning another bathymetric survey of the river in 2024. Under the proposed agreement, the USGS will conduct additional analysis of the 2024 dataset, document the past and new work in a USGS Scientific Investigations Report, collect channel grain size data and participate in the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process to disseminate results.

Funding Amount and Source

The proposed agreement includes a contribution of \$94,050 from the FCZD and \$61,000 from the USGS. The FCZD amount will be fully reimbursed by a Proviso to the State budget to support the FLIP work.

Please contact Paula Harris at extension 6285, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this Contract.