

PROPOSED BY: _____

INTRODUCED: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL, AND
LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING
THE LAKE WHATCOM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2025-2029 WORK PLAN

WHEREAS, in 1992 and again in 1998 the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County and the precursor to the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District jointly formed the Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) and declared their intention to work together to protect and manage Lake Whatcom; and

WHEREAS, the three Lake Whatcom Management Program jurisdictions have adopted five previous five-year plans that have provided a framework for program cooperation and implementation of joint activities, and which have resulted in improved water quality and environmental conditions of the lake; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Whatcom Management Program 2025-2029 Work Plan defines the major activities and investments needed to continue improving and protecting water quality in the lake and its tributary streams and watershed health during the next five years, through twelve established program areas: land preservation, stormwater, land use, monitoring and data, hazardous materials, recreation, aquatic invasive species, utilities and transportation, education and engagement, administration, climate action, and forest management; and

WHEREAS, Lake Whatcom Management Program staff developed the LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan to address TMDL requirements, preserve and protect Lake Whatcom water quality and watershed health and provide for tracking and reporting outcomes, and

WHEREAS, the draft 2025-2029 LWMP Work Plan was shared with the public for public comment from July 25, 2024 to August 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, staff have incorporated public comments into the 2025-2029 Work Plan

and provided responses to each of the 307 comments in a publicly available comment matrix; and

WHEREAS, The Lake Whatcom Policy Group includes representatives from the Bellingham City Council, Whatcom County Council, the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District Board of Commissioners, and the Sudden Valley Community Association Board and provides informal feedback to staff. Staff provided overviews, presentations, and updates to the Lake Whatcom Policy Group on February 1, 2024, April 24, 2024, June 5, 2024, July 10, 2024, September 18, 2024 and December 20, 2024 and received feedback and guidance.

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Advisory Board (WRAB) is a City of Bellingham Advisory Board charged with helping to inform and guide the City's planning and policy regarding the protection and management of water resources, including municipal water, sewer, surface and stormwater systems, controls, rates, and drinking water source protection. Staff provided updates, presentations and discussions on the LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan on July 23, 2024, September 24, 2024, and November 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on November 26, 2024, the WRAB approved a resolution supporting City Council approval of the Lake Whatcom Management Program 2025-2029 Work Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby adopts the Lake Whatcom Management Program 2025-2029 Work Plan as the framework for joint management of the lake and for achieving necessary milestones to improve water quality in the lake.

APPROVED this 28th day of January 2025.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Christopher Quinn by Jessie Smiley 1/14/25
Christopher Quinn, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney – Civil Division