



Emergency Water Intertie Project (City of Ferndale Washington)

Funding Request: \$850,000 (grant)
Water Infrastructure - EDI

Request: The City of Ferndale requests an \$850,000 grant in order to complete construction of an emergency water intertie project between the City of Ferndale and City of Bellingham. While an \$850,000 grant is requested, the City is also amenable to a combination grant/loan.

Issue: The City of Ferndale has historically utilized the Nooksack River as the primary source for municipal drinking water. Within the last decade the City has transitioned to a system of wells that are hydrologically separated from the Nooksack River. The Nooksack River provides habitat and spawning grounds for endangered salmon species and is experiencing a significant reduction in seasonal flows as a result of climate change and other factors.

In an era of increased water scarcity, the City of Bellingham and the City of Ferndale have sought to establish an emergency intertie between the two jurisdictions. This intertie would allow the City of Ferndale to access City of Bellingham municipal water in case of an emergency situation (including but not limited to major fire, damage to Ferndale wells or pumps stations, contamination, well failure, and more). While the City of Ferndale has secured sufficient water rights to support forecast growth, an intertie provides an important redundancy, should it become needed.

Solution: The City of Ferndale and the City of Bellingham have adopted interlocal agreements for the emergency intertie, and the intertie has been designed. This intertie will consist of a new water main between an existing City of Bellingham water tank approximately one-half mile south of the Ferndale City limits, and the City's existing municipal water mains.

Ferndale has completed a 90% engineering estimate for this project, which is projected to cost \$1.85 million. The project is considered shovel-ready. The City is prepared to pay for the remaining \$1 million of the project.

EDI Eligibility: The project will enable the City to maintain the municipal water services that the community and businesses rely on, even during an emergency event.

