



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom Country Executive, and the Honorable Members of the Whatcom Country Council, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom Country 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 Program Manager *GS*

DATE: September 26, 2023

RE: Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Early Flood Warning Gages

Enclosed is a Joint Funding Agreement between the Whatcom Country Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

The FCZD has worked cooperatively with the USGS for a number of years to collect stream-gaging data on a real-time basis for early flood warning and flood response. Financing of the program is provided on a cost-share basis through the USGS Cooperative Program. Similar to last year's Joint Funding Agreement, the program includes 6 early warning gages on the Nooksack River and its upper forks, plus the Jones Creek gage, the Everson overflow gage at Main Street, as well as 3 new gages which were installed last year: one to monitor overflow into the Everson-Sumas corridor, one on the Sumas River, and one at the Guide-Meridian.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

The proposed Joint Funding Agreement is for a total amount of \$169,470, of which \$10,370 will be funded by the USGS through Cooperative Matching Funds. The FCZD fund will provide \$159,100, with \$7,020 from the Acme/Van Zandt Subzone fund for the Jones Creek gage, and the City of Abbotsford will reimburse \$4,680 in accordance with the existing Interlocal Agreement for the Everson Main Street Overflow gaging station.

Similar to last year, another portion (\$8,820) of the total USGS contribution of \$19,190 is through its Federal Priority Streamgage Program, which is reflected in the Joint Funding Agreement (item 2c) but not in Attachment A, as the agreement is only for Cooperative Water Program funding.

- **Differences from Previous Contract**

This year's costs are \$48,236 lower than the cost of services last year, as last year we included upgrades and additions to the gaging network. The cost is higher than previous years due to the additional gages installed last year.

Please contact Paula Harris at extension 6285 should you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.