



M E M O R A N D U M

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

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

FROM: Paula J. Harris, P.E., River and Flood Manager *BH*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *gms*

DATE: September 21, 2021

RE: Joint Funding Agreement with United States Geological Survey

Enclosed are two (2) originals of a Joint Funding Agreement between the Whatcom County 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 this program is provided on a cost-share basis through the USGS Cooperative Program. This Joint Funding Agreement covers the six early warning gages on the Nooksack River and its upper forks, plus the Jones Creek gage and the Everson overflow gage at Main Street. The Jones Creek gaging station was installed in 2009 to provide advance warning for the Acme Fire District (AFD) in responding to a debris flow event on Jones Creek. The Everson Overflow gaging station was installed in 2012 in cooperation with the City of Abbotsford to help monitor and plan flood response for overflows at Everson during large flood events.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The proposed Joint Funding Agreement is for a total amount of \$120,197, of which \$6,989 will be funded by the USGS through Cooperative Matching Funds. The FCZD fund will provide \$104,921, with \$6,001 from the Acme/VanZandt Subzone fund, and the City of Abbotsford will reimburse \$4,413 in accordance with the existing Interlocal Agreement for the Everson Overflow gaging station.

Similar to last year, another portion (\$8,287) of the total USGS contribution of \$15,276 is through its Federal Priority Streamgage Program, which is not reflected in the Joint Funding Agreement (other than in Attachment A) as the agreement is only for Cooperative Water Program funding.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

This year's costs to the FCZD are \$804 or <1% higher than the cost of similar services provided last year.

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

Encl.