

Elizabeth Kosa
Director



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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive and
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Director *LBF*

From: Doug Ranney, P.E., County Engineer *DWR*
James Lee, P.E., Engineering Manager *JL*

Date: September 20, 2024

Re: **Whatcom County Fish Passage Restoration, Portfolio Development
CRP No. 924006
Federal Aid Local Agency Agreement**

Enclosed for your review and signature is one (1) original of the Local Agency Agreement between the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Whatcom County for the Whatcom County Fish Passage Portfolio Development project, CRP No. 924006.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council authorize the County Executive to enter into an agreement with WSDOT to receive federal funding for the Whatcom County Fish Passage Portfolio Development project, CRP No. 924006.

Please sign the Local Agency Agreement in **blue ink** and return the original to my office for further processing. We will return a fully executed copy following signature by WSDOT.

Background and Purpose

The WRIA1 Salmonid Recovery Plan guides recovery of ESA listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other salmonids in the Nooksack River and adjacent coastal streams. One component of the plan is correcting fish passage barriers that block access to tributary, floodplain and estuarine habitats. Additionally, Whatcom County entered a Memorandum of Agreement with salmon co-managers in 2023 to guide remediation of County-owned culverts with fish passage barriers. Public Works Natural Resources and Bridge and Hydraulics have created a cross-divisional team to expedite culvert remediation. This project advances this work with site assessment and preliminary analysis of eleven (11) priority fish barrier culverts throughout Whatcom County (site map attached).

This Local Agency Agreement is required to obligate federal grant funds so that preliminary analysis can begin on this project.

Funding Amount and Source

Whatcom County has been awarded \$880,031.00 in federal funds through the FFY2022 National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program) for this project. These federal funds require a 20% local match, which brings the total project cost to \$1,100,039.00. This Local Agency Agreement obligates \$1,100,039.00 in funding (\$880,031.00 federal and \$220,008.00 local). This project is listed as Item No. 42 on the 2024 Annual Construction Program.

Please contact Ben Floyd at extension 6252 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.