



Garrett Reynolds, Superintendent

**Elizabeth Kosa**  
Public Works Director

# MEMORANDUM

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

**Through:** Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *EK*

**From:** Brett Piepel, Assistant Superintendent – Equipment Services

**Prepared by:** Kyle DeVries, Purchasing / Stores Lead

**Subject:** Contract Amendment for Disposal of Vactor Waste at Cowden Facility

**Date:** 5/4/2026

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Enclosed is a contract amendment to contract 202408029 between Whatcom County and Cowden Brothers Trucking for your review and signature.

## **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County Public Works, Maintenance & Operations crews perform routine cleaning of storm drains and catch basins using Vactor trucks to maintain proper drainage and prevent system failures. The waste material generated from these operations must be disposed of at an approved Vactor waste facility. In 2024, Whatcom County Public Works entered into Contract No. C#202408029 with Cowden Brothers Trucking to provide disposal of Vactor waste. Whatcom County Public Works has determined that it is in our best interest to extend this contract.

## **Funding Amount and Source**

This contract amendment is in the amount of \$288,000. This amendment increases the maximum contract consideration from \$576,000 to \$864,000. The funding source for this contract is in both M&O and ER&R funds and has been allocated in the 2025-2026 budget process. It is anticipated to remain the same or increase for the 2027-2028 budget.

## **Differences from Previous Contract**

The original contract provides the option of extending the contract for up to three (3) one-year renewals beyond the initial one (1) year term. This amendment extends the term of the contract by one year to cover the period of September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027 and updates the rates as follows:

1. **Vactor Waste Disposal Fee Increase**  
The current rate per ton will increase by \$15 (a 7.32% increase). This adjustment is due to the increasing cost of the contractor of receiving, processing, and disposing of vactor waste.
2. **New Street Sweeping Waste Reimbursement Option:**  
A new fee category is proposed to provide crews with an additional option for disposing of street sweeper waste. Depending on where crews are working within the County, this option can reduce travel time by

eliminating the need to drive to other facilities for disposal. The site also provides a washout hose, which is beneficial when street sweepings are especially wet. This service was not available when the original contract was established.

3. Tiered Fee Structure for Clean Hydro Excavation Waste (adds gallons per load):

A tiered pricing option by volume is proposed for clean hydro waste excavation waste, replacing the single-rate structure. This approach is intended to provide pricing based on the volume of waste delivered.

<b>Proposed Fee Summary</b>		
<b>Service Category</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Vactor Waste Disposal	\$205 per ton (\$125 minimum)	\$220 per ton (\$150 minimum) – 7.32% increase
Street Sweeping Waste	N/A <b>(New)</b>	\$190 per ton (\$125 minimum)
Clean Hydro Excavation Waste - Tier 1	\$150 per load	\$150 per load (0-500 gallons)
Clean Hydro Excavation Waste – Tier 2	N/A <b>(New)</b>	\$200 per load (500-1500 gallons)
Clean Hydro Excavation Waste – Tier 3	N/A <b>(New)</b>	\$250 per load (1500+ gallons)

Please contact Brett Piepel at extension 6405 or Kyle DeVries at extension 6408 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.