



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Whatcom County Council

**FROM:** Randy Rydel, Finance Director

**DATE:** March 11, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Authorizing an Interfund Loan from the Public Utilities Improvement Fund for the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center Sports Court Project Budget

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The County has identified a longstanding need for organized athletic facilities in the areas of Kendall and Peaceful Valley. The County owns the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (EWRRC), a space that currently provides a variety of community programming in the area. The EWRRC is an ideal host for an organized athletic facility due to its location and proximity to the communities in need.

Due to the nature, timing, and extent of the project, the administration has determined that a project based budget should be established to facilitate the accounting for this project. The ordinance authorizing the creation of this project based budget is going forward in tandem with this proposal.

The Whatcom County Parks Department has been awarded the Community Outdoor Athletic Facility (COAF) Grant from the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for \$1.2 million dollars. The grant is on a reimbursement basis where costs must be incurred and expended before reimbursed by the grantor. The project based budget will not have the capital available to pay for project expenditures while awaiting reimbursement from the grantor. A loan from the Public Utilities Improvement Fund (also known as Economic Development Investment) will provide bridge funding for the project. Upon completion of the sports court project and final reimbursement from RCO, the Public Utilities Improvement Fund will be fully repaid.

Please call Randy Rydel at (360) 778-5323 if there are any questions.