



**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**

MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu, and the Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council, collectively serving in their capacity as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director *ek*

From: Julie Anderson, River & Flood Manager – Public Works Department *JMA*
Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager – Public Works Department *GS*

Subject: HMGP DR-4635-WA, 4635-02-R Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Elevation Proposal #2 (Grant Agreement) with Washington State Military Department for the elevation of sixteen structures in flood-prone areas

Date: May 7, 2026

Enclosed is a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Grant Agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) and the Washington State Military Department for your review and signature.

Background and Purpose

In response to the November 2021 flooding, the FCZD applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding to elevate structures in areas of the county that experienced the most flood damage, including affected small cities. HMGP funding was made available to Whatcom County as a result of the flood through FEMA Federally Declared Disaster Number DR-4635-WA. The second grant application, 4635-02-R, was recently awarded to elevate 16 structures in Sumas, Ferndale, Everson, and unincorporated Whatcom County.

River & Flood staff, along with Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group (WLTRG) and consultant Black & Veatch, have planned a workshop for homeowners on June 15th to kick-off the grant. Homeowners will learn about the elevation process and the expectations and requirements for grant reimbursement. Black & Veatch will ensure the elevation projects comply with the grant, and WLTRG will provide local project management assistance to homeowners throughout the elevation process.

Funding Amount and Source

The proposed agreement provides \$4,156,725 in funding from “Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Elevation Proposal #2,” of which, 90% is Federal funding (FEMA), 5% is state funding (WAEMD), and the 5% local match will be reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Elevation and Acquisition Match Grant that was awarded to the FCZD. There is adequate budget authority in the 2026 FCZD budget for this work. Council approval is required pursuant to WCC 3.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000.

Recommended Action:

In addition to approving the Grant Agreement, staff requests that Council approve a separate motion authorizing the Executive to execute agreements with the property owners that outline the terms of reimbursement for the elevation of their structures.

Please contact Julie Anderson, River & Flood Manager, at jmanders@co.whatcom.wa.us or extension 6258 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.