



MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

FROM: Kraig Olason, Stormwater Program Manager

DATE: December 6, 2021

RE: Ordinance establishing the Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project Fund,
Project-Based Budget and Supplemental Budget Request for the
Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project

Requested Action

Please find attached for approval an ordinance establishing the Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project fund, project-based budget and supplemental budget request from the Public Works Stormwater Division for the Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project.

Background and Purpose

This project will improve water quality in Lake Whatcom through the retrofit of a bioretention facility in the Geneva neighborhood. This project will utilize a newly developed High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM) to provide treatment for total suspended solids, dissolved copper, dissolved zinc, and total phosphorus. Additional benefits of this project include field testing of the new HPBSM specification following Technology Assessment Protocol – Ecology (TAPE) criteria to confirm laboratory results. This is a priority capital project and is listed as item number three on the 2022-2027 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program for the Lake Whatcom watershed.

This supplemental budget request includes costs for design, easement acquisition and construction of this project. The project is scheduled for construction in the summer of 2023, subject to approval of the requested funds.

Funding Amount and Source

This request, in the amount of \$1,489,250 (including a 15% contingency), will be funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology and local funds. The Ecology grant will reimburse up to the seventy-five percent of eligible county expenses on this project for a

maximum reimbursement of \$971,250. The remainder will be funded by a transfer from the Real Estate Excise Tax II fund (\$250,000) and from the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility fund (\$268,000).

Please contact Kraig Olason at extension 6301, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.