

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings
Director**



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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: January 11, 2022

RE: Washington State Department of Ecology Water Quality Combined
Financial Assistance Agreement #WQC-2022-WhCoPW-00118 for
Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive and the Whatcom County Council enter into a financial assistance agreement (grant) between the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Whatcom County for the sum of \$1,295,000.

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 Ecology grant will reimburse up to the seventy-five percent of eligible county expenses on this project and it is scheduled for construction in the summer of 2023.

Funding Amount and Source

The total amount of this agreement is \$1,295,000. Ecology will provide financial assistance in the amount of \$971,250 and Whatcom County will contribute a 25% match in the amount of \$323,750. The project-based budget request for this project will be reviewed at the January 25, 2022 Whatcom County Council meeting.

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

Encl.