

To: Whatcom County Council

CC: County Executive Satpal Sidhu, Deputy Executive Tyler Schroeder, Port of Bellingham Executive Director Rob Fix

From: Port of Bellingham, Economic Development Division

Date: January 13, 2022

Re: CEDS Project List 2022 – Project List Addendum

In 2020-2021, two large employers in Whatcom County closed their doors: Safran and Alcoa/Intalco. These firms were responsible for over 1000 jobs in Whatcom County and thus replacing them or finding new users for the properties is a high priority.

Many partners within Whatcom County are currently working to reopen the Alcoa/Intalco facility. To assist these efforts, the Port of Bellingham requests the following CEDS Project be added to the Project List (found in the [CEDS Report 2022-2026, Appendix #6](#), approved by Resolution 2021-046) as a Port project. The CEDS Report 2021-2025 and the Project List for 2021 were approved on [October 26, 2021](#), with an amendment passed on [December 7, 2021](#) authorizing the change of date for the report to 2022-2026.

The project is not eligible for EDI funds, however, they will be applying for several federal and state level funding sources, many of which require the Project be on the current Project List and to be linked to a regional economic strategy. This project fulfills multiple CEDS goals, including strengthening our economic base (Goal #1), helping our workforce skills and employer needs align (Goal #3), and improving the physical infrastructure of the County with an emphasis on the Cherry Point area (Goal #2).

Due to the time sensitive nature of grant applications, as well as special one-time funding opportunities arising due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, it behooves the County to add this project to the list at the earliest possible date.

The project details are as follows.

Project Name/Title: Project Reopen Alcoa/Intalco

Project Location: Alcoa/Intalco facility, Cherry Point area, Whatcom County

Project Description: To retain jobs, train workforce in support of plant reopening with upgraded technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Improve physical infrastructure related to plant and plant access.

Project Type: Economic Development, Workforce, Energy, and Public Works

Estimated Cost: \$10,000,000

Potential Funding Sources: EDA, CERB, WA Commerce, State Legislative Grant, EPA Brownfields grants, local, and private/developer

EDI?: No

Other?: Yes