

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings
Director**





NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 
Chris Elder, Senior Planner 

DATE: July 27, 2022

RE: Contract for Whatcom Coastal and Riverine Compound Flood Model Vulnerability and Risk Assessment project

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that County Council authorize the County Executive to enter into a contract between ESA and Whatcom County to implement the Coastal and Riverine Compound Flood Vulnerability and Risk Assessment project.

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County identified the need to assess sea level rise impacts along the Whatcom County coastal shorelines to inform land use and preparedness planning efforts. The Department of Ecology offered a competitive grant opportunity to support implementation of sea level rise planning efforts. Whatcom County staff coordinated with partners in the county, including the cities of Bellingham, Ferndale, and Blaine, the Port of Bellingham, the Lummi Nation, the US Geological Survey, and Washington SeaGrant, to develop an application to this grant opportunity entitled Whatcom Compound Flood Vulnerability & Risk Assessment. Whatcom County's application was selected for funding and will allow the Public Works Department to convene a multi-jurisdictional team (parties listed above) to develop a Vulnerability & Risk Assessment for Whatcom County marine and lower Nooksack riverine shorelines using Compound Flood Models. These models use sea level rise, tidal, wave, storm surge, and stream discharge data to assess vulnerability and risks exacerbated by climate change to public infrastructure and private development (assets), ecosystem functions/values (systems), and populations. The results of this project will not only build mutual understanding of potential sea level rise and compound flood impacts, but will provide a high-resolution assessment of vulnerability and risk throughout the project area to inform planning and preparedness efforts including but not limited to land use regulations, natural hazard planning, public infrastructure planning, and other related efforts.

ESA responded to a request for proposals and was selected to implement this project. ESA has significant and valuable experience working on these types of projects and will provide significant value to this effort.

Funding Amount and Source

Funding for this contract comes directly from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Shorelands SMP Competitive Grant program. No County funds are required to complete this work.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.
Contract