



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, 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, Interim Public Works Director

**FROM:** Kraig Olason, Stormwater Program Manager

**DATE:** November 3, 2022

**RE:** 2023 Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Conservation District for Outreach, Education and Technical Assistance with BBWARM Stormwater Programs

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### **Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, acting as signatory for the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, enter into a contract for services between Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) and Whatcom County for the sum of \$93,000, for the purpose of providing outreach, education and technical assistance for various stormwater-related programs, with particular emphasis on the communities within the Terrell Creek and Birch Bay watersheds.

### **Background and Purpose**

The WCD will provide outreach and engagement opportunities for residents and rural landowners in the Birch Bay & Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) district. Activities will include the development of informational mailers and newsletter articles, participation in education and outreach events, and continued implementation/expansion of the Neighborhood Native Landscaping Program (NNLP). Based on what was learned during the NNLP pilot in 2022, increased staff time (140%) was allocated to this program and the WCD, rather than county staff, will be purchasing all the materials through this contract (\$30,000) to increase project efficiency and streamline workflow. Additionally, the WCD are aiming for approximately 135% increase in the square footage of native landscaping installed in 2023 in Birch Bay (20,000 ft<sup>2</sup>). County staff are also asking the WCD to assume responsibility for project management and to provide more detailed reporting and accounting than in previous years. These changes resulted in a significantly higher ILA budget in 2023 compared to past contracts.

In addition, the WCD will offer free technical assistance in the form of confidential risk assessments, farm plan development, and guidance in the implementation of best management practices for rural landowners and small farm owners in the Birch Bay watershed through Task 3 of this contract.

### **Funding Amount and Source**

Contract total of \$93,000.00 will be funded by existing authority in the BBWARM district budget (cost center 169250, work order 17312).

Please contact Holly Faulstich at extension 6290 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.