

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings
Director**



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, and
Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *JH*

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager *PSM*
Kraig Olason, Stormwater Program Manager *KO*

DATE: August 22, 2019

RE: Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the Lake
Whatcom Homeowner Incentive Program

Requested Action

Please find attached for your review and signature two (2) copies of an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for implementation of the Lake Whatcom Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP).

Background and Purpose

HIP is a joint Whatcom County (County) and City of Bellingham (City) non-regulatory program that provides technical assistance and financial incentives to homeowners who voluntarily install stormwater best management practices (BMP) that reduce phosphorus loading from their property to Lake Whatcom. The purpose of HIP is to help meet Lake Whatcom Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.

HIP was initially developed and piloted under a Washington State Department of Ecology grant from 2011 to 2015. The County and City have been cooperatively implementing a revised version of the program (HIP 2.0) since 2017 under a 2017-2019 interlocal agreement (#201611031) that defines each jurisdiction's responsibilities, establishes the program area, and defines specific program guidelines and requirements. As discussed at the June 25, 2019 Surface Water Work Session, this new agreement maintains the existing program area, guidelines, and financial obligation of each jurisdiction. Changes include minor edits for clarity, updated references for staff contacts and budget, changes to the easement requirements where local code ensures similar levels of protection, and extending the term for another year through the end of 2020. Upon approval, this new agreement will replace the current agreement.

Funding Amount and Source

This agreement outlines the terms for reimbursement from the City to the County for costs incurred to implement HIP above \$100,000 per year, the amount budgeted in 2019 and 2020 in cost center 123211.

Please contact Ingrid Enschede at extension 6229, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.