

Jon Hutchings
Director



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
Honorable Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Director *JH*

FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager

DATE: August 20, 2019

RE: Interlocal Funding Agreement with City of Bellingham for Support of US Geological Survey's Development of the COastal Storm MOdeling System (COSMOS) across the Whatcom County Shoreline

Requested Action

Enclosed are two (2) originals of an interlocal funding agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for support of U.S. Geological Survey's development of the COastal Storm MOdeling System (COSMOS) across the Whatcom County shoreline for your approval. Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, acting for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Board of Supervisors, execute this agreement.

Background and Purpose

The US Geological Survey is proposing to develop a COastal Storm MOdeling System (COSMOS) for the Whatcom County shoreline. CoSMoS makes detailed predictions of storm-driven coastal flooding, erosion, and cliff failures that can be visualized using standard map viewers, mappable at scales fine enough to use for planning purposes. The current proposal is part of an effort to model all of Puget Sound. CoSMoS was developed to be useful for exploring past, present, and future coastal hazards: it can be used to perform "hindcast" studies to better understand historical events, support operational (real-time) applications to support emergency response, and generate future scenario-based coastal flooding simulations to support local coastal hazards and sea-level rise vulnerability planning. CoSMoS will provide information that can be used to increase public safety, mitigate physical damages, and more effectively manage and allocate resources within complex coastal settings. This information will likely benefit comprehensive planning, road protection/planning, parks planning, coastal flooding preparation, watershed planning, BBWARM planning, and emergency management planning.

Funding Amount and Source

The estimated budget for this agreement is \$125,000.00. This amount will be funded as follows: 40% Road Fund, 30% General Fund, 20% Flood Fund, and 10% BBWARM Fund. The Flood Fund will provide \$10,000 in funding in 2019. There are sufficient funds in the 2019 Flood Fund budget for this expenditure. The remaining \$15,000 in Flood funding will be included in the 2020 FCZD Budget. Funding from the Road Fund, General Fund and BBWARM will be included in supplemental budget requests for the 2020 budget year.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.