

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

## Memorandum

TO: Honorable Whatcom County Councilmembers  
Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director, PDS *urp*

FROM: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, PDR Program Administrator

DATE: December 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Request approval to sign agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office in order to secure matching funds for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Rethlefsen property through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program.

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Whatcom County PDR Program staff applied to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation grant program in 2019 for several of the Purchase of Development Rights Program applications. Several of the Whatcom County applications ranked well and the Rethlefsen application has been awarded matching funds to contribute towards the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the Rethlefsen property.

This request is to sign a grant agreement to secure funding from RCO. It does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds. This project will still require Council approval before an agricultural conservation easement can be completed.

Rethlefsen applied to the PDR Program in March of 2019. Authorization to apply for funding assistance for this application was approved by Whatcom County Council on May 21, 2019 through Resolution 2019-027.

### **Request Summary**

PDR Program Staff request approval for the Executive to sign the Funding Board Project Agreement for project number 19-1537 (Rethlefsen Agricultural Conservation Easement) to receive matching funds to support acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Rethlefsen property. This request is to secure funding from RCO and does not obligate Whatcom County to spend funds.

Please contact PDR Program Administrator Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke at (360)778-5956 with any questions.