



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) – Well Delegation Agreement
DATE: July 21, 2021

Attached is an agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In accordance with WAC 173-160, this Agreement delegates authority to Whatcom County to administer and enforce well sealing, tagging, and decommissioning of water wells. This Agreement requires the County to inspect a minimum of 40% of newly constructed water wells to verify that licensed Well Drillers are adequately sealing and tagging new wells. Additionally, the County inspects a minimum of 40% of wells that are decommissioned, in order to ensure that proper decommissioning procedures are being followed.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

DOE pays the County 50% of water well drilling and decommissioning notifications collected. The County receives approximately \$13,500 per year for this work, which covers the County's cost for providing the inspections and required reporting. These funds will be included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Similar agreements have been in place with DOE since 2008. This Agreement includes no significant changes to the scope of work from the agreement that ends on 6/30/2021 (WC Contract #201506016).

Please contact Darin Klein, Environmental Health Supervisor at 360-778-6032 (DKlein@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

