

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW LAKE WHATCOM STORMWATER UTILITY PROPOSED RATES

Bellingham, WA—Whatcom County Public Works is hosting a public meeting to share information about the recently completed Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility funding study on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Geneva Elementary School cafeteria, 1401 Geneva Street, Bellingham, WA 98229. Property owners in the unincorporated portion of the Lake Whatcom watershed are encouraged to attend to learn about the proposed new stormwater utility rates, how the rates were developed, and the upcoming process for adoption by the Whatcom County Council.

In December 2017, the Whatcom County Council created the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility with a service area that includes all areas in the Lake Whatcom watershed outside of the Bellingham city limits. The purpose of the new stormwater utility is to provide funding for anticipated new expenses related to Whatcom County's Lake Whatcom Stormwater Program. Existing funding sources are not sufficient to provide the services necessary to meet water quality improvements required by the Lake Whatcom Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the Washington State Department of Ecology issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater permit.

Over the past year, county staff and consultants worked with a citizen advisory committee to complete a funding study. The study included a review of stormwater utility rate structure and policy options. In March 2019, the advisory committee made recommendations on a proposed rate structure and related policy decisions. These recommendations will go to the Whatcom County Council. Council members are anticipated to vote on an ordinance adopting a rate structure for the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility in the coming months.

For more information about the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility and the funding study, visit <http://whatcomcounty.us/2830/Lake-Whatcom-Stormwater-Utility>. Meeting materials will be posted to the website for those unable to attend on April 30.

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