



SKAGIT COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
1800 CONTINENTAL PLACE, #100
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273
360.416.1300

SUPPORT

EXPANSION OF DIDGWAŁIĆ WELLNESS CENTER

AS AN EARLY FUNDING PARTNER, SKAGIT COUNTY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE SWINOMISH TRIBE'S PLAN TO EXPAND DIDGWAŁIĆ TO INCLUDE HOUSING AND EXPANDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES. THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED IN SEVERAL PHASES TO INCLUDE DETOX, EMERGENCY HOUSING, TRANSITIONAL AND WORKFORCE HOUSING. SIMILAR TO ITS WELLNESS CENTER, THE PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED HOUSING WOULD SERVE BOTH TRIBAL AND NONTRIBAL CLIENTS.

HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM

SKAGIT SUPPORTS FULL FUNDING OF \$9,154,060 FOR THE HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR THE SKAGIT COUNTY COURTHOUSE SEISMIC RETROFIT.

HOUSING TRUST FUND

SKAGIT SUPPORTS FULL FUNDING OF \$250 MILLION FOR THE HOUSING TRUST FUND, A CRITICAL RESOURCE FOR BUILDING AND PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOMES THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

OFFICE GRANT PROGRAMS

SKAGIT SUPPORTS FUNDING FOR THE RCO GRANT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE SKAGIT COUNTY CENTENNIAL TRAIL PROJECT.

THE BRIAN ABBOT FISH

BARRIER REMOVAL BOARD

SKAGIT SUPPORTS \$65,664,932 IN FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR THOSE CULVERTS LOCATED ON CARPENTER CREEK, DAIRY CREEK, AND NORWAY PARK CREEK. THE FBRB PROCESS INCLUDES COORDINATION WITH WSDOT ON HIGH-VALUE CULVERTS.

OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

COUNTIES PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE STATE, OFTEN WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDING. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE PRESERVE FUNDING, INCLUDING SHARED REVENUES, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS CONSTITUENTS DURING A TIME OF SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL STRESS.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS@CO.SKAGIT.WA.US

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FUNDING REQUESTS

GUEMES ISLAND ELECTRIC FERRY:

SKAGIT COUNTY IS WORKING WITH OUR STATE PARTNERS TOWARDS FULL FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION THE FIRST ALL-ELECTRIC FERRY IN WASHINGTON TO SERVE THE ROUTE BETWEEN ANACORTES AND GUEMES ISLAND. THE NEW VESSEL WILL REDUCE FUEL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, CARBON DIOXIDE OUTPUT, AND DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER, AS WELL AS REDUCING AIRBORNE NOISE – A TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE IN REDUCED COST, IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT, AND INCREASED CAPACITY AND DEPENDABILITY FOR PASSENGERS.

SECURED FUNDS: \$11M TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$19.6M STATE TRANSPORTATION REQUEST: \$8.6M

SKAGIT COUNTY MORGUE:

THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MORGUE AT THE CORONER'S OFFICE WILL EFFECTIVELY TRIPLE CASE CAPACITY IN SKAGIT COUNTY AND ENSURE THAT THE CORONER AND STAFF HAVE THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT REQUIRED WORK ACCORDING TO BEST PRACTICES. THE NEW FACILITY WILL ALSO INCREASE REGION WIDE CAPACITY FOR SOFT-TISSUE DONATION, AND ALLOW FAMILIES MORE TIME TO MAKE APPROPRIATE PLANS FOR THEIR LOVED ONE'S REMAINS.

SECURED FUNDS: \$293K TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$428K CAPITAL REQUEST: \$135K

RE-APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SEDRO-WOLLEY E&T:

SKAGIT COUNTY HAS RECEIVED \$1.5M (2017-2019 BIENNIUM) AND \$6.6M (2019-2021 BIENNIUM) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO BUILD THE SKAGIT COUNTY EVALUATION AND TREATMENT (E&T) CENTER. DUE TO MINOR CONSTRUCTION DELAYS CAUSED BY COVID-19, SKAGIT COUNTY MAY NOT EXPEND ALL FUNDS BY JUNE 30, 2021. THE COUNTY EXPECTS TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION BY OCTOBER 2021. SKAGIT COUNTY REQUESTS A RE-APPROPRIATION OF 2017-2019 UNEXPENDED CONTRACT FUNDS TO ENSURE THE PROJECT CAN BE COMPLETED ON TIME WITH THE USE OF STATE FUNDS, AS INTENDED. SKAGIT COUNTY ALSO SUPPORTS THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AGENCY REQUEST FOR RE-APPROPRIATION OF THE 2019-2021 CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. THESE RE-APPROPRIATIONS WILL REPRESENT A VERY SMALL PORTION OF TOTAL GRANT AWARDS, AS THE PROJECT WILL BE NEARING COMPLETION.

POLICY PRIORITIES

REET 2 FLEXIBILITY:

THE LEGISLATURE HAS ALLOWED TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR JURISDICTIONS TO USE REET 2 REVENUE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION UNTIL JANUARY 2026 (RCW 82.46.035). THE COUNTY URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO ALSO ALLOW THE USE OF REET 2 FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND SERVICES.

LEVY CERTIFICATION TIMING:

STATE LAW MANDATES SPECIFIC DATES BY WHICH THE COMMISSIONERS MUST CERTIFY PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR ALL TAXING DISTRICTS, AND ADOPT THE COUNTY BUDGET. CURRENTLY THOSE DATES DO NOT ALIGN, MAKING COMPLIANCE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. WE ARE REQUESTING A STATUTORY CHANGE TO ALIGN THESE DATES.

RON WESEN
DISTRICT 1

KEN DAHLSTEDT
DISTRICT 2

LISA JANICKI
DISTRICT 3