



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

THREATENED PROPERTIES ONE STEP CLOSER TO RELIEF

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For Release: April 6th, 2004

(Everett) The Public Works & Transportation Subcommittee, chaired by Snohomish County Councilman Gary Nelson, took action to authorize the proposed transfer of \$1,000,000 in Surface Water Management funds to the River Improvement Fund, allowing the purchase of threatened homes on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. The issue now moves to a vote of the full Snohomish County Council April 14th.

The county had applied for a Hazard Mitigation Grant following a December 1999 flood event that further eroded the riverbank in the Chatham Acres area. The North Fork of the Stillaguamish has experienced dramatic shifts in course along the Mountain Loop Highway, resulting in road closures and threatening properties in the vicinity.

The temporary inter-fund loan from Surface Water Management to the River Improvement Fund will be repaid following receipt of Washington State Department of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation grant monies. The \$1,000,000 will cover expenses related to the buyout while the grant is processed. The grant will be used to acquire the 28-acre site, ten structures, a small bridge and several outbuildings. The total cost of the buyout is \$1,869,988, with a portion of the cost contributed by the homeowners themselves and the Washington Military Department.

Future access to the property, once buildings are taken down, will be restricted to passive recreation uses.

(See Attached Motion)

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**A MOTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERFUND LOAN FROM THE SURFACE WATER
MANAGEMENT FUND TO THE RIVER IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR PURCHASING
THE CHATHAM ACRES PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Surface Water Management, River Improvement program is in the process of negotiation with the Chatham Acres Homeowner's Association to acquire a 28-acre site, including ten building structures, a small bridge and multiple outbuildings, located on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, to mitigate flooding concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council approved the purchase; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Surface Water Management, River Improvement program has applied and been approved for a Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$1,636,240 to reimburse the fund in 2004 for the cost of purchasing the property; and

WHEREAS, the River Improvement Fund needs a short-term loan of \$1,000,000 in addition to existing funds to purchase the property; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Surface Water Management Fund has available funds to provide the needed short-term loan of \$1,000,000 to the River Improvement Fund, and

WHEREAS, the prevailing rate of interest Surface Water Management funds would normally receive will be charged to River Improvement for use of the funds; and

WHEREAS, the entire loan will be paid in full when the Hazard Mitigation Grant monies are received;

NOW, THEREFORE ON MOTION,

The Snohomish County Council authorizes an interfund loan of \$1,000,000 from the Surface Water Management Fund to the River Improvement Fund in accordance with the terms noted above.