

**WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S
PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Works Department has reported to the Whatcom County Executive that on the afternoon of October 28, 2021 at approximately 12:45pm, the Whatcom Chief ferry experienced a failure with the #1 main propulsion engine during regular ferry operations, and

WHEREAS, the engine problems were diagnosed by our vessel crew and the on-call contractor Tri County Marine, which required, at approximately 1:00 pm, to discontinue ferry service to conduct emergency engine repairs.

WHEREAS, the passenger only ferry, the Salish Sea was put into service so that the Whatcom Chief can transit to a dockside facility for repairs; and

WHEREAS, it is unsafe to continue operating until repairs are made and there are many citizens stranded on the island and mainland, and

WHEREAS, this problem signifies a threat to life and/or property if not promptly addressed; and

WHEREAS, this problem entails the necessity of immediate emergency repairs to the Whatcom Chief ferry, and other various emergency expenses relating to the incident; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these emergency repairs could be in the purchasing policy that would ordinarily require soliciting three quotes, County Executive, and County Council approval; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes an emergency as defined by the Whatcom County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and necessitates the utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to the Whatcom County Charter, RCW 36.40.180 and RCW 38.52.070(2);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE that an emergency exists in Whatcom County, and that Whatcom County departments are thus authorized to do the following:

- (1) enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to address such emergency situations to protect the health and safety of persons; and,
- (2) other actions, as appropriate.

Each Whatcom County department is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this proclamation in the light of the exigencies of an emergency situation without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements).

Dated this 28th day of October 2021.



Whatcom County Executive
Satpal Sidhu

Recommended by:



Director, Public Works Department
Jon Hutchings

Approved as to form:



~~Chief~~ Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Christopher Quinn