



## Snohomish County Council

**Committee:** Conservation, Sustainability, and Recreation    **Analyst:** Nicole Gorle  
**ECAF:** 2023-0034    **Date:** January 9, 2022  
**Motion:** 23-019

### **Consideration:**

Authorize an additional \$500,000 to be added to the Purchase Order for the Underpass Agreement with BNSF relating to the Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project.

### **Background:**

Snohomish County purchased the property known as Meadowdale Beach County Park in 1968 with the intent to create a public park that has beach access. In furtherance of this goal, Snohomish County entered into an agreement with BNSF in 1987 to allow the County to install a culvert under the railroad embankment and within the railroad's right-of-way in order to allow fish passage and creek flow from Lund's Gulch Creek. The County additionally installed pedestrian access to the beach in 1988 within the culvert tunnel.

Over time, stormwater runoff had resulted in an accumulation of gravel at the culvert entrance which has hampered fish passage and pedestrian access. As a result, the County determined that it was necessary to replace 130 feet of railroad embankment with a railroad bridge, creating an estuary for salmon habitat, and installing picnic areas and a footbridge allowed for safe fish passage while still providing pedestrian access. Total project cost is estimated to be \$15 million, with just shy of \$7 million coming from grants and \$8 million from County REET funds and bonds.

A portion of the bridge work has been completed by BNSF crews (with support from the County's contractor) while work on the underpass and estuary will be completed by the County's contractor Strider Construction (Bid No: PW 002-21SB). The contract with BNSF was executed through Motion 21-215 on June 7, 2021.

### **Current Proposal:**

*Scope:* Increase the amount authorized to be paid to BNSF under the Underpass Agreement to \$3,012,185, in order to pay them for work already completed as stipulated under the agreement in section 4.6.

*Duration:* n/a

*Fiscal Implications:* Increases the contract amount by \$500,000. Currently, DCNR has received invoice from BNSF that exceed initial approved amount by \$281,939.58 and believes \$500,000 will cover the outstanding current and future invoices from BNSF for their work on this project. There is sufficient funding in DCNR's budget to cover the additional cost.

**2023 Budget:** Yes

**Future Budget Impact:** No

**Handling:** Urgent – January 12, 2023

**Approved-as-to-form:** n/a

**Risk Management:** n/a

**Executive Recommendation:** Approve

**Attachment:** none

**Amendments:** none

**Request:** For Council to consider taking action.