

**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION**

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING
THE NACHES-COWICHE
FLOOD RISK REDUCTION AND
FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT
FC3687**

018-2020

WHEREAS, under Resolution 361-2018, the Board of County Commissioners of Yakima County adopted the 2018 Cowiche Addendum to the Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP); **and**,

WHEREAS, the 2018 Cowiche Addendum to the CFHMP provides information for reducing and preventing flood damages, promotes structural and non-structural approaches, and guides future decisions; **and**,

WHEREAS, Yakima County and the City of Yakima (City) participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); **and**,

WHEREAS, FEMA's recently updated digital flood insurance rate maps for Cowiche Creek extended the 100-year floodplain well into the northwest corner of the City, and showed a significant increase in flood risk as compared with previous flood insurance rate maps; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Cowiche Creek floods of February 2016 and March 2017 demonstrated the reality of this mapped flood risk; causing damages to City, County, and Washington State Department Transportation (WSDOT) infrastructure, and private homes and businesses; **and**,

WHEREAS, the estimated public/private cost of the 2017 event alone exceeded \$860,000 in damages and emergency response efforts; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Yakima County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD), building on the findings of the 2018 Cowiche Addendum to the CFHMP, analysis of the 2016 and 2017 flood events, and interlocal agreements with the City and WSDOT, has developed a coordinated, integrated floodplain management project to reduce base flood elevations, flood risks, and long-term maintenance costs, and to restore the functional floodplain at the Naches-Cowiche confluence to the benefit of threatened and native species; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Yakima County Water Resources Division has designated the project as the Naches-Cowiche Flood Risk Reduction and Floodplain Restoration Project (Project) – County Project No. FC3687; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Division applied for and was successful in securing state grants to fund the implementation of the Project; and has provided for such funds within its budget; **now therefore**,

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BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Yakima County, Washington, that the Public Services Director, through the Water Resources Division, is directed to acquire the necessary fee simple interest and/or conservation or flood easements necessary for the full and safe implementation of the Project, as a public use and necessity, and to design, permit, and construct the project to meet habitat and flood risk reduction objectives.

DONE this 14th day of January 2020

Attest:

Melissa Paul, *Clerk of the Board*

Linda Kay O'Hara, *Deputy Clerk*

Norm Childress, *Chairman*

Ron Anderson, *Commissioner*

Vicki Baker, *Commissioner*
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*