

## OVERVIEW

The City of Bellingham (City), American Rivers (AR), and supporting partners are working to implement a multi-benefit project on the Middle Fork Nooksack River. The project aims to improve fish passage for three ESA-listed Puget Sound threatened anadromous fish species by removing the diversion dam while maintaining water supply diversion at the site. The project team has completed the planning, design and permitting phase, and secured the majority of project funding. Mobilization for upland construction will begin in January 2020.

## THIS MONTH

- ***Bid Process/Procurement***
  - A contract was awarded to Walsh Construction Company II, LLC ([Walsh Group](#)) for project construction of on November 18, 2019. The bid process has ended.
- ***Outreach***
  - The City and American Rivers have collaborated in preparing an outreach plan for the construction phase. Partners will be engaged in media event planning in the winter and spring.
  - The USFWS collected drone footage at the site, and will be developing a storymap highlighting the biological benefits of the project.
  - Select Project media items:
    - Project [website](#), [video](#), King 5 news [story](#), City [press release](#) re State funding, NOAA [press release](#) re Community-based Restoration Program funding
- ***Permitting***
  - All project authorizations have been secured.

## DECEMBER 2019

- The pre-construction conference will be held on December 10, 2019 in Bellingham.
- The City is scheduled to issue Walsh Construction the Notice to Proceed on or after January 2, 2020, with site prep, mobilization, and upland work to follow during the winter and spring. In-water work, including intake construction, dam removal, and channel restoration will occur during the approved in-water work period of June 1 – September 30, 2020.
- A sign will be developed for posting at the project site acknowledging the significant contributions of partners.