

## 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. The project was advertised for construction bidding on August 5, with five bids received on September 19.

## THIS MONTH

- ***Bid Process/Procurement***
  - A City Council meeting was held on October 21. The Council unanimously voted for the construction contract to be awarded to Walsh Construction Company II, LLC ([Walsh Group](#)). The project will proceed on schedule with construction expected to begin in early 2020.
  - A site visit with Walsh Construction was held on October 29.
- ***Funding***
  - Coordination efforts are ongoing to secure funds for project completion from Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) recertification funding. PST funding has been appropriated and is pending approval of the FFY20 Department of Commerce budget. That budget was approved by the Senate in a minibus package on October 31.
- ***Outreach***
  - A letter was prepared to outline the project risk of a delayed Federal FY20 budget and re-establish the need for timely passage. The letter was sent to the Congressional delegation and several federal budget committee members on October 22.
  - Partner Government relations staff engaged Congressional staffers and aides to better understand the potential federal budget passage timeline, as it relates to Pacific Salmon Treaty appropriation.
  - A project presentation was provided to DNR Forest Practices regional and supervisory staff on October 16 in Mount Vernon, Washington.
  - USFWS communications staff is preparing a storymap of the project. Drone footage and interview footage was collected on October 16.
  - 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.

**NOVEMBER 2019**

- We will continue to have discussions at the local, State and federal level to understand how NOAA will be administering PST funds after federal budget approval.
- The City will execute a construction contract with Walsh Construction Co in November.