

*Parsons*

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
CONCERNING PROVISION OF FIRE INVESTIGATION SERVICES**

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING PROVISION OF FIRE INVESTIGATION SERVICES (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015, by and between Snohomish County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington (the "County"), and Snohomish County Fire District No. 1, a Washington special purpose municipal corporation (the "Fire District").

**RECITALS**

- A. The County and the jurisdictions of Mountlake Terrace, Brier and Edmonds, which are served by the Fire District have adopted the International Fire Code (the "IFC") for use within their respective jurisdictions in compliance with chapter 19.27 RCW.
- B. The IFC requires local jurisdictions, including the County and Fire District, to investigate the origin, cause, and circumstances of fire events occurring within their respective jurisdictions and document those findings in a report authored by a qualified fire investigator.
- C. The Fire District occasionally does not have qualified personnel available to perform the investigative functions required by the IFC, due to the simultaneous occurrence of multiple fire events, staffing fluctuations and/or other reasons. The Fire District, in such event, desires to engage the County to perform the required investigative functions and the County is willing to perform such investigative functions, pursuant to the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.
- D. This Agreement is made pursuant to the authority granted by the Interlocal Cooperation Act, chapter 39.34 RCW, RCW 19.27.110 and RCW 43.44.050.

## AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the respective agreements set forth below and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Fire District and the County agree as follows:

### **Section 1. SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR FIRE INVESTIGATION**

- 1.1 The Fire District's requests for Fire Investigation Services (as such term is defined in Section 1.2 below) will be made by the Fire Chief or any fire command officer. The term "fire command officer" means the Fire District officer in charge of the scene. The request for Office of the County Fire Marshal ("OCFM") Fire Investigation Services will be made through SnoPac Dispatch Center. The parties understand and agree that the County's ability to perform Fire Investigation Services pursuant to this Agreement may be limited, delayed, or otherwise impacted by the availability of OCFM personnel.
- 1.2 The term "Fire Investigation Services," as used in this Agreement, shall include, by way of example but not by way of limitation, the following types of services: (i) acting as the on-scene agency in charge of the investigation; (ii) origin and cause determination; (iii) documenting and recording the scene; (iv) identification, collection, and preservation of evidence; (v) witness interviewing; (vi) assisting local law enforcement; (vii) preparation of initial and follow-up reports; and (viii) court appearances.
- 1.3 Both parties understand and agree that the OCFM fire investigators who provide Fire Investigation Services to the Fire District pursuant to this Agreement shall at all times be acting in their official capacities as employees of Snohomish County. The OCFM fire investigators shall at all times be an agent or employee of the County and shall not be considered for any purpose to be an agent or employee of the Fire District in providing Fire Investigation Services to the Fire District pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.4 The scope of the Fire Investigation Services to be rendered upon any specific request shall be determined by mutual agreement on a case-by-case basis; provided, however, that in all instances the performance of Fire Investigation Services by OCFM personnel shall include (i) acting as the on-scene agency in charge of the investigation, and (ii) preparing the initial and follow-up reports.
- 1.5 The Fire District and OCFM personnel shall work cooperatively in any fire investigation conducted pursuant to this Agreement. The Fire District and OCFM shall furnish to the other party any information, personnel or other material available that may be needed in the course of performing Fire Investigation Services pursuant to this Agreement.

- 1.6 The Fire District hereby authorizes said OCFM personnel to investigate fires for origin and cause, and perform, within the Fire District's jurisdictional boundaries all other Fire Investigation Services that the Fire District has expressly requested or that are incidental to the performance of the Fire Investigation Services the Fire District has expressly requested.

## **Section 2. COMPENSATION**

- 2.1 The Fire District shall pay the County for Fire Investigation Services provided pursuant to Section 1 of this Agreement on an hourly basis in accordance with the rate schedule in Appendix A.
- 2.2 County staff time will be billed in one-tenth hour increments.
- 2.3 The OCFM agrees to provide the Fire District with a written invoice for Fire Investigation Services rendered pursuant to this Agreement no later than 90 days after the date on which the services were rendered.
- 2.4 The Fire District agrees to remit payment in full within 30 days of receipt of an OCFM invoice. The payment shall be made to the OCFM.
- 2.5 The County will maintain all records reflecting fees and costs billed to the Fire District.
- 2.6 All billing invoices and payments shall be delivered to the following:

County: Snohomish County  
Planning and Development Services, Accounting  
M/S 604, 3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
Everett, WA 98201-4046

Fire District: Snohomish County Fire District No. 1, Accounting  
12425 Meridian Ave  
Everett, WA 98208

## **Section 3. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1 Each party shall maintain and provide evidence to the other of insurance or self-insurance adequate to cover its liability obligations under this Agreement and/or arising out of each parties activities hereunder.

## Section 4. INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY

- 4.1 Fire District Held Harmless. The County shall indemnify and hold harmless the Fire District and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them from any and all claims, actions, suits, liability, loss, costs, expenses, and damages of any nature whatsoever, by any reason of or arising out of any negligent act or omission of the County, its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them relating to or arising out of performing services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that any such suit based upon such a claim, action, loss, or damages is brought against the Fire District, the County shall defend the same at its sole cost and expense; provided that the Fire District reserves the right to participate in said suit if any principle of governmental or public law is involved; and if final judgment in said suit be rendered against the Fire District, and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, or jointly against the Fire District and the County and their respective officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, the County shall satisfy the same.
- 4.2 County Held Harmless. The Fire District shall indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them from any and all claims, actions, suits, liability, loss, costs, expenses, and damages of any nature whatsoever, by any reason of or arising out of any negligent act or omission of the Fire District, its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them relating to or arising out of performing services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that any suit based upon such a claim, action, loss, or damages is brought against the County, the Fire District shall defend the same at its sole cost and expense; provided that the County reserves the right to participate in said suit if any principle of governmental or public law is involved; and if final judgment be rendered against the County, and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, or jointly against the County and the Fire District and their respective officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, the Fire District shall satisfy the same.
- 4.3 Liability Related to District Ordinances, Policies, Rules and Regulations. In executing this Agreement, the County does not assume liability or responsibility for or in any way release the Fire District from any liability or responsibility which arises in whole or in part from the existence or effect of District ordinances, policies, rules or regulations. If any cause, claim, suit, action or administrative proceeding is commenced in which the enforceability and/or validity of any such District ordinance, policy, rule or regulation is at issue, the Fire District shall defend the same at its sole expense and, if judgment is entered or damages are awarded against the Fire District, the County, or both, the Fire District shall

satisfy the same, including all chargeable costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

- 4.4 Waiver under Washington Industrial Insurance Act. The foregoing indemnity is specifically intended to constitute a waiver of each party's immunity under Washington's Industrial Insurance Act, Chapter 51 RCW, as respects the other party only, and only to the extent necessary to provide the indemnified party with a full and complete indemnity of claims made by the indemnitor's employees. The parties acknowledge that these provisions were specifically negotiated and agreed upon by them.

#### **Section 5. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington. The venue of any action arising out of this Agreement shall be in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, in and for Snohomish County.

#### **Section 6. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW**

Both parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws in the performance of this Agreement.

#### **Section 7. PROPERTY**

Except as expressly provided to the contrary elsewhere in this Agreement, any real or personal property used or acquired by either party in connection with the performance of this Agreement will remain the sole property of such party and the other party shall have no interest therein.

#### **Section 8. DURATION AND TERMINATION**

- 8.1 This Agreement will become effective upon execution by the parties and being posted on the Snohomish County Council website pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, RCW 39.34.040. This Agreement shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020, unless the parties renew or amend the Agreement in accordance with the terms of Section 10. Changes to Appendix A are subject to Section 14 below.
- 8.2 Either party may terminate this Agreement, for any reason, upon providing thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. In that event, the Fire District shall pay the County for all Fire Investigation Services provided up to and including the date of termination in accordance with Section 2.

8.3 The terms and conditions contained in Sections 2 and 5 of this Agreement shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

**Section 9. AMENDMENT AND/OR RENEWAL**

9.1 The Director of the County's Department of Planning and Development Service (the "Director") shall have the authority to amend and/or renew this Agreement on behalf of the County to the extent and under the circumstances described in this Section 10, without the need to obtain additional approvals from the County Council or the County Executive.

9.2 The Director shall have the authority to extend the term one or more times, for a total extension period not to exceed ten (10) years.

9.3 If both parties wish to renew the Agreement, negotiations of the hourly compensation rates of Appendix A must be completed 45 days prior to expiration of the Agreement or any amendment thereto. Changes to Appendix A are subject to Section 13 below.

9.4 In order to be effective, any renewal or amendment of this Agreement must be memorialized in writing, executed by both parties, and posted on the Snohomish County Council web site pursuant to RCW 39.34.040. A sample form of amendment is attached to this Agreement as Appendix B.

## **Section 10. NOTICES**

All notices, including requests to terminate the Agreement, shall be delivered to the following:

County: Snohomish County  
Planning and Development Services, Director  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
M/S 604  
Everett, WA 98201-4046

Fire District: Snohomish County Fire District No. 1  
12425 Meridian Ave  
Everett, WA 98208

## **Section 11. DESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATOR**

The Director of the Department of Planning and Development Services or his/her designee is the County's administrator of this Agreement for purposes of the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The Fire Chief or his/her designee is the Fire District's administrator of this Agreement for purposes of the Interlocal Cooperation Act.

## **Section 12. NO WAIVER**

No term or provision in this Agreement shall be waived and no breach excused unless such waiver or consent shall be in writing and signed by the party claimed to have waived or consented.

## **Section 13. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof, and supersedes any and all prior oral or written agreements between the parties regarding the subject matter contained herein. This Agreement may not be modified or amended in any manner except by a written document signed by the party against whom such modification is sought to be enforced.

## **Section 14. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

All privileges and immunities from liability, exemption from ordinances, rules, laws, all pension, disability, workers compensation, and other benefits which apply to the activities of the OCFM fire investigators while performing their functions within the

territorial limits of Snohomish County shall apply to OCFM fire investigators to the same degree and extent while they are engaged in the performance of any of their authorized functions and duties within the Fire District under the provisions of this Agreement.

#### **Section 15. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES; NO JOINT VENTURE**

This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the parties hereto and shall not confer third-party beneficiary status on any non-party to this Agreement. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as creating any type or manner of partnership, joint venture, or other joint enterprise between the parties.

#### **Section 16. CONTINGENCY**

The obligations of the Fire District and County in this Agreement are contingent on the availability of funds through local legislative appropriation and allocation in accordance with law. If funding is withdrawn, reduced, or limited in any way after the effective date of this Agreement, either party may terminate the contract under Section 9 of this Agreement.

#### **Section 17. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, for any reason and to any extent, be found invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby, but shall instead continue in full force and effect to the extent permitted by law.

#### **Section 18. RECORDS**

Both parties shall maintain adequate records to document obligations performed under this Agreement. Both parties shall have the right to review the other party's records with regard to the subject matter of this Agreement, upon reasonable notice. Fire investigation records shall belong to the County. The County will provide copies to the Fire District upon request or when required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement, effective on the date indicated below.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

By: [Signature]  
Ed Widdis, Fire Chief

By: [Signature]  
John Lovick, County Executive  
STEPHEN CLIFTON  
Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 8-25-2015

Attest: [Signature]

Attest: [Signature]  
Cora E. Palmer

Approved by <sup>District</sup> City Attorney  
[Signature]

Approved as to form:  
Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office  
[Signature] 7/28/15

COUNCIL USE ONLY  
Approved: 8.24.15  
Docfile: D-1

**APPENDIX A**  
**FEE SCHEDULE/HOURLY RATE**

1.A Fire Investigation Services Rate Per Hour \$

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
\$88.00	\$91.00	\$94.00	\$97.00	\$100.00	\$103.00

**APPENDIX B**  
**Sample Form of Amendment**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1  
AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING PROVISION  
OF FIRE INVESTIGATION SERVICES**

THIS AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING PROVISION OF FIRE INVESTIGATION SERVICES (this "Amendment") is made and entered into as of this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by and between Snohomish County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington (the "County"), and Snohomish County Fire District No. 1, a Washington special purpose municipal corporation (the "District").

**RECITALS**

- A. The County and District are parties to the "Interlocal Agreement Between Snohomish County Fire District No. 1 and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Fire Investigation Services" executed on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ (the "Original Agreement").
- B. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Original Agreement, the Director of the County's Department of Planning and Development Services has authority to execute an amendment to the Original Agreement to the extent and under the circumstances more fully described herein.
- C. The County and District now desire to amend the Original Agreement to extend the Term [INSERT REASON].
- D. The County and District now desire to amend the Original Agreement to adopt a new fee schedule due to [INSERT REASON].
- E. [INSERT ANY OTHER PERTINENT RECITALS.]

## AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the respective agreements set forth below and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Fire District and the County agree as follows:

### **Section 1. EXTENSION OF TERM**

The County and District agree that the Term specified in Section 9 of the Original Agreement shall be extended by [INSERT AMOUNT OF TIME]. The new Expiration Date of the Agreement is [INSERT NEW EXPIRATION DATE].

### **Section 2. ADOPTION OF NEW FEE SCHEDULE**

The County and District agree to adopt a new fee schedule as provided herein:

[INSERT NEW FEE SCHEDULE/HOURLY RATE]

### **Section 3. RATIFICATION**

Except as modified by this Amendment, the Original Agreement shall remain in force and effect in accordance with its terms and is hereby ratified and affirmed.

### **Section 4. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS**

This Amendment may be executed in counter parts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County and District have executed this Amendment as of the day and year first written above.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Director, Department of Planning  
And Development Services