

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION R20180123 AND R20100050 (AMENDED BY R20110382), REVISING THE FERRY FARE REVENUE TARGET METHODOLOGY AND ESTABLISHING THE 2023/2024 FERRY FARE SCHEDULE

**WHEREAS**, Skagit County (“County”) owns and operates a vehicle and passenger ferry (herein “ferry”) between Anacortes, Washington, and Guemes Island, Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 18, 2018, the Board of Skagit County Commissioners (“Board”) adopted Resolution R20180123, establishing the Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule and a vessel replacement surcharge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that the current ferry (M/V Guemes) has reached the end of its useful and economic life and needs to be replaced and therefore elects to maintain the vessel replacement surcharge on every fare sold; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board adopted Resolution R20100050 dated February 16, 2010, as amended by Resolution R20110382 dated November 28, 2011, establishing the Guemes Island Ferry operations public forum and ferry fare revenue target methodology; and

**WHEREAS**, fare box revenue has not met the required revenue target since 2017, and the County contracted with KPFF Consulting Engineers (KPFF) in 2022 to conduct a rate study and make fare policy and rate schedule recommendations to the Board, and as applicable such rate schedule recommendations have been incorporated herein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to increase fares and revise the evaluation period for the purposes of calculating the fare revenue target and has instructed the Public Works Department (in coordination with KPFF) to recommend ferry fare revenue target methodology to meet said revenue target as provided herein; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 36.54.200 allows a county operating a ferry to impose a vessel replacement surcharge on every fare sold to be used only for the construction or purchase of ferry vessels, and to pay the principal and interest on bonds authorized for the construction or purchase of ferry vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to rescind Resolutions R20180123 (and reimplement the vessel replacement surcharge by new subsequent resolution) and R20100050 (as amended by R20110382) and establish a revised ferry fare revenue target methodology and a new 2023/2024 fare schedule to include the vessel replacement surcharge; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Board recognizes that the “Guemes Island Ferry Operations Public Forum” process described per R20100050 (as amended by R20110382) is not feasible from a practical and logistical perspective, but nevertheless the Board desires for Public Works Department staff to continue to reasonably communicate and provide timely financial information to the advisory Guemes Island Ferry Committee, and solicit recommendations therefrom; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board held public hearings on February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter (per R20230022) and on June 8, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter (per R20230100) to obtain for public comment on proposed changes to the ferry fare revenue target methodology and ferry rate schedule, and also provided for the receipt of additional written comments; and

**WHEREAS**, the revised ferry fare revenue target methodology, attached as **Exhibit A** (and incorporated by reference), establishes the Board's desired revenue target methodology taking into account recommended input from the Public Works Department staff, the Guemes Island Ferry Committee, and the oral and written comments received; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 revenue target calculation, attached as **Exhibit B** (and incorporated by reference), establishes the 2023 farebox recovery requirement taking into account recommended input from the Public Works Department staff, the Guemes Island Ferry Committee, and the oral and written comments received; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to efficiently implement a consistent and documented "need based" fare category, providing a discounted ferry rate(s) for persons residing on Guemes Island who also otherwise qualify for and are actively enrolled in the County's Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Exemption Program, as administered by the Skagit County Assessor's Office (which provides certain property tax exemptions for qualifying persons per RCW 84.36.381), as further described per the Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule attached as **Exhibit C** and incorporated herein; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023/2024 Guemes Island ferry fare schedule, attached as **Exhibit C** (and incorporated by reference), establishes the ferry fare schedule for 2023 and 2024 taking into account recommended input from the Public Works Department staff, the Guemes Island Ferry Committee, and the oral and written comments received; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Board to enact the ferry fare revenue target methodology as shown as **Exhibit A**, the 2023 revenue target as shown as **Exhibit B**, and the Guemes Island ferry fare schedule as shown as **Exhibit C**, effective August 15, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that Resolutions R20180123 and R20100050 (amended by R20110382) are hereby rescinded, effective August 15, 2023; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED**, that the ferry fare revenue target methodology as shown, described, and depicted as **Exhibit A** (attached hereto and incorporated by reference) and the 2023 Ferry Fare Revenue Target, as shown, described, and depicted as **Exhibit B** (attached hereto and incorporated by reference), and the 2023/2024 Guemes Island Ferry fare schedule as shown, described, and depicted as **Exhibit C** (attached hereto and incorporated by reference) are hereby adopted and established, effective August 15, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED**, that Public Works Department staff shall make reasonable efforts to continue to communicate with and obtain advice and recommendations from the Guemes Island Ferry Committee concerning matters related to the operation of the Guemes Island Ferry, specifically including, but not necessarily limited to holding at least one (1) public meeting with representatives of the Guemes Island Ferry Committee and other interested parties each year, at locations, dates, and times to be determined by the Public Works Director, or designee.

**PASSED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Wesen, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Browning, Commissioner

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

Approved as to Content:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head