



City of Bellingham - Whatcom County Fire District #8 RFA Planning Committee

Issue Paper

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Date: 8-18-2017

Paper #: 2

Title:

RFA start date and Levy start date

Summary/Description of issue:

The Planning Committee needs to determine the service start date (formation date) of the proposed RFA. RCW 52.26.070 states "the authority is formed on the effective date as set in the plan or the next January 1st or July 1st, whichever occurs first." This has implications not just for service delivery, but also when the RFA funding can begin. The date should also allow for meaningful public input, time to allow the vote to be certified and challenged, and appropriate time to allow collection of revenue.

Options:

Start Service Date/Formation Date:

1. October 1, 2018 (August 2018 ballot).
2. January 1, 2019 (either August or November 2018 ballot).

Proposed Levy Collection Start Date:

1. January 1, 2019
2. January 1, 2020

Staff Recommendations and Rationale:

Staff recommends a service start date of October 1, 2018. This allows time to communicate with the assessor's office and calculation of any levy rates. It is also a time frame that allows the earliest relief to Bellingham's general fund.



Direction from the Planning Committee: