

<b>SECTION 1</b>	<b>Background &amp; Needs Statements</b>
<i>Revision</i>	The <b>BACKGROUND &amp; NEEDS STATEMENTS</b> section of the <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.
<i>Adopted</i>	
<i>Revised</i>	

**A. Background and Needs:**

1. The ability to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency services jurisdictions has not kept up or progressed with the community’s needs and special service demands. Anticipated increase in population will likely exacerbate this problem.
2. Providing a fire protection and emergency services system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments, the private sector, and the community.
3. Delivery of core emergency services and timely development of significant projects can best be achieved through stable funding options for regional fire protection and emergency services.
4. The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8 have had a cooperative partnership; striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency services to our community within the confines of available resources.
5. Cooperation and the partnership between the City Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8 began with an interlocal agreement in 1997, providing the legal structure for the entities to remain separate but work cooperatively together.
6. The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8 will be asking its citizens to consider combining all functions and services provided by the two jurisdictions into a single entity, called a Regional Fire Authority.

**RFA SECTION 1 PLAN REVISION:**

The **NEEDS STATEMENT** section of the Bellingham Regional Fire Authority (**BRFA**) **Plan** is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.