

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

A. Background and Needs:

1. Bellingham and the surrounding areas are growing faster than our ability to meet adopted levels of service requirements for fire protection and emergency services. This growth is expected to continue and add increasing pressure on our fire protection and emergency services into the future.
2. The creation of a Regional Fire Authority will allow for an increased level of service to meet these growing demands and the needs of the community and provide a stable and consistent funding source for fire and emergency services.
3. Communities are best served by a fire protection and emergency services system that has a collaborative partnership and responsibility shared among local and regional governments, the private sector, and the community.
4. Stable funding options for regional fire protection and emergency services allow for the timely development and implementation of significant fire and emergency services initiatives.
5. The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8 have a cooperative partnership and provide a high level of fire and emergency services to our community within the confines of available resources. Cooperation and the partnership between the City Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8 began in 1997.
6. The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire District 8 will be asking its citizens to vote to combine 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 Bay Regional Fire Authority (**BBRFA**) **Plan** is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.