

From: Cathie Raine <cjrrd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 4:59 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: 8/27/2024 City Council meeting (Public Comments)
Attachments: STGPD Work Plan (Updated 12-20-23) (2).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Dear Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Hines and Council Members,

I am submitting the following PUBLIC COMMENTS concerning 2 items on the 8/27/24 City Council Meeting Agenda:

1. Ordinance 28977..Extending the Duration of the current Moratorium in the STGPD by 6 months.

Of course..this Moratorium needs to be extended another 6 months (actually..another extension will be needed after this one ..until the Updates are to be completed in Summer 2025).

Please note that these Updates are to be finished over 4 years from the STNC'S submission of an application in March 2021. Obviously not a priority project for the PDS Dept!

While these STGPD code updates have stalled..for years, the PDS Dept Director approved a permit application for the Bridge Industrial Company to build 'warehouses' (2.5 million sq ft total), paved parking lot and roadways on this site.. All over a part of the Aquifer in South Tacoma...more than 100 acres of surface area..impermeable surfaces impacting the water volume in this Aquifer. In addition, rapid housing development has occurred in that Tacoma Mall Growth Center in that STGPD. Smaller and older homes (with lawns/landscaping and trees) have been replaced with apartment buildings that offer little to no lawn/trees for residents to enjoy.

Tacoma Mall area ..already with plenty of pavement...has plans to add on more stores and apartment buildings.

The message to the Planners is to DECREASE the amounts of 'impermeable surfaces areas within the STGPD area. We have asked that the Planners review and develop 'impermeable surface limitations in ALL areas(not just the industrialized areas) as a significant addition with these STGPD Code updates.

Unfortunately, the Planners continue to push this fabrication that 'residents' had an interest in including tree canopy and landscaping standards..within (only?) the Tacoma Mall Growth Center area and the Industrialized zoned areas in the STGPD.

Yes..people want trees and landscaping everywhere. It's not happening in this Tacoma Mall Growth Center area as every foot of lunch is developed with new housing!

Our last comments to Stephen Atkinson last Fall..as these STGPD updates Work Plan were being handed over to Maryam Moeinian:.

"Please include review/benchmarking of: 'impervious surface limitations' (for ALL AREAS) to include with the STGPD Code updates".

Please see attached 'STGPD Code Updates' Work Plan (from 12/20/24 Planning Commission meeting)

2. Resolution 41521--This concerns the implementation of the proposed South Tacoma Station Access Improvement Project. I noticed: back in 2021, agencies with City of Tacoma "assessed current conditions for walking, rolling and taking transit to and from South Tacoma Station. The assessment identified potential improvements to enhance access from the surrounding neighborhooda to the station".

Due to the construction underway now on the Bridge Industrial Warehouse site (just north of S 56th Street), an updated study will be needed. This 2.5 million sq ft warehouse complex..likely to be completed and operational by the end of 2026..will generate greater than 10,000 vehicle trips daily...over street.. areas identified with this Sound Transit project.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathie (Raine) Urwin



**2023 ANNUAL AMENDMENT
TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND LAND USE REGULATORY CODE**

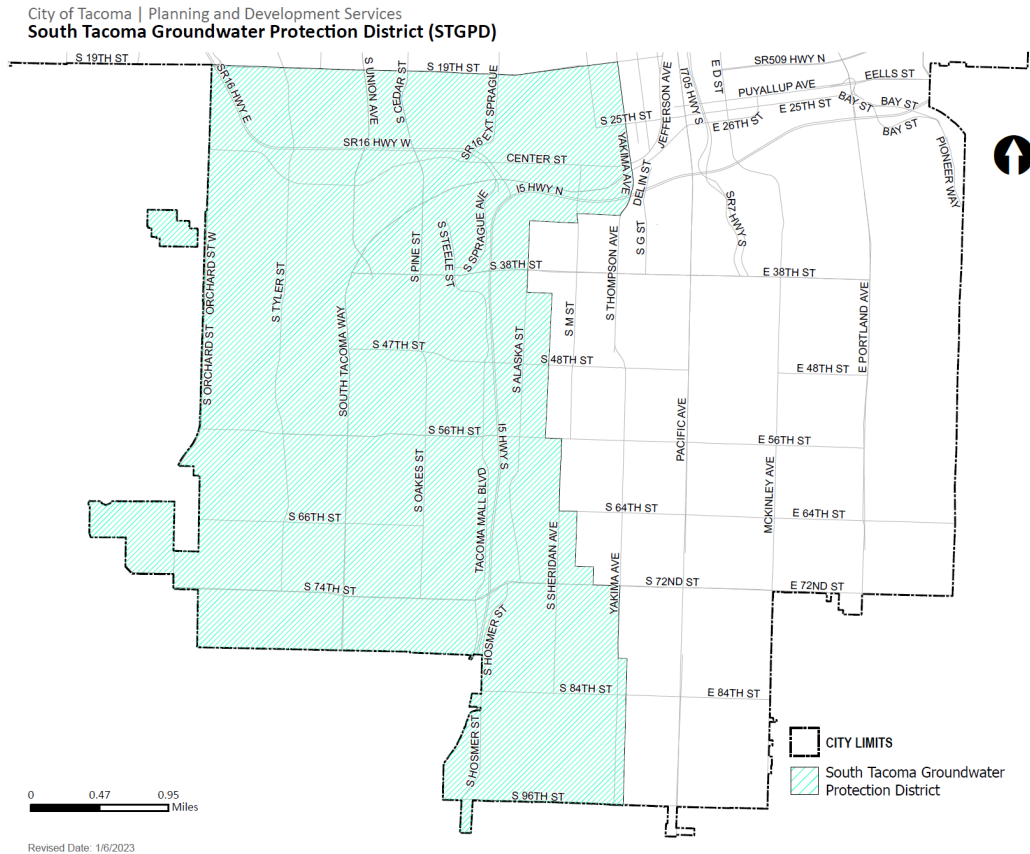
South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Proposed Work Plan Update

December 20, 2023

Project Summary	
Staff Contact:	Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner: satkinson@cityoftacoma.org
Location and Size of Area:	The South Tacoma Groundwater Protect District is approximately 7,658 acres of land area between S. 19 th Street to the North and City Limits to the South, and Orchard Street to the West and an Eastern boundary that generally follows S. Yakima and S. Alaska Streets, encompassing the South Tacoma Aquifer.
Current Land Use and Zoning:	The area includes a mix of land uses and zoning, including a Regional Growth Center, a Manufacturing and Industrial Center, Major Institutional Campuses, two Mixed-Use Centers and other residential and commercial districts.
Neighborhood Council Area:	While the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District is primarily located within the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council Area, it also includes portions of the Central and South End Neighborhood Council Areas as well.
Project Proposal:	<p>The project will evaluate review the South Tacoma Groundwater District Zoning and Development Standards and consider amendments to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement and monitoring • Frequency and timing of future code review and updates • Consideration of additional incompatible land uses • Development standards for underground storage tanks and metal recycling/auto wrecking facilities • Code implementation and code location (including potential relocation) • Infiltration Policy Review and Stormwater Treatment BMPs • Development permit application submittal requirements • Impervious surface standards • Inter-departmental coordination on permits and land use amendments

Section A. Purpose and Area of Applicability

The South Tacoma groundwater aquifer system serves as a significant source of drinking water for the City of Tacoma. It may supply as much as 40 percent of the City's total water demand during periods of peak summer usage. For future growth, supplemental supply, and emergency response, this resource will continue to be extremely important to the City of Tacoma.



It has been found and determined that a major cause of historical groundwater contamination in the South Tacoma aquifer system is from accidental or improper release of hazardous substances from spillage, leaks, or discharges from local industry. Due to the large number of potential sources of toxic and hazardous substances within the area which recharges the aquifer system and the possibility of further contamination, the City of Tacoma found that it was necessary and in the public interest to establish the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District in 1988.

The South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District is an overlay zoning and land use control district specifically designed to prevent the degradation of groundwater in the South Tacoma aquifer system by controlling the handling, storage and disposal of hazardous substances by businesses. The overlay zoning district imposes additional restrictions on high impact land use development to protect public health and safety by preserving and maintaining the existing groundwater supply for current and potential users and to protect the City of Tacoma from costs which might be incurred if unsuitable high impact land uses were to reduce either the quality or quantity of this important public water supply source. It is the intent of

chapter 13.06.070 of Tacoma Municipal Code, to establish orderly procedures that reduce the risks to public health and safety and to the existing groundwater supply. These procedures shall ensure that within the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District, properties that have stormwater infiltration facilities and properties that store hazardous substances meet appropriate performance standards, and those properties are properly maintained, inspected, and tested when necessary. The following map illustrates the current boundaries of the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District.

Section B. Policy Framework and Planning Requirements

In accordance with Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 13.02.070 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Procedures and TMC 13.05.030 Zoning and Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment Procedures, the Planning Commission must make a determination as to whether proposed policy and regulatory amendments are consistent with the following criteria:

- Whether the proposed amendment will benefit the City as a whole, will not adversely affect the City's public facilities and services, and bears a reasonable relationship to the public health, safety, and welfare; and
- Whether the proposed amendment conforms to applicable provisions of State statutes, case law, regional policies, and the Comprehensive Plan.

To support the Commission's review and determination, staff have identified the following regional and local goals and policies for the Commission's consideration:

Growth Management Act - Planning Goals

The Growth Management Act (GMA) is a set of state statutes that were initially enacted in 1990 and require rapidly growing cities and counties to develop a comprehensive plan for managing their population growth. Under [RCW 36.70A.020](#), the GMA establishes a series of 15 goals that should act as the basis of all comprehensive plans. These goals are adopted to guide the development and implementation of comprehensive plans and development regulations. The following four goals, out of the fifteen stated above, pertain to this code change:

(10) Environment. Protect and enhance the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

(11) Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens.

(12) Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

(14) Climate change and resiliency. Ensure that comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and strategies under [RCW 36.70A.210](#) and chapter [47.80 RCW](#) adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled; prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate impacts

and natural hazards; protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice.

Growth Management Act - Critical Areas Preservation

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the designation and protection of "Critical Areas" to prevent harm to the community from natural hazards and to protect the natural environment, wildlife habitats, and sources of fresh drinking water. [RCW 36.70A.030\(11\)](#) defines five types of critical areas:

- 1) Wetlands.
- 2) Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water.
- 3) Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.
- 4) Frequently flooded areas.
- 5) Geologically hazardous areas.

The functions and values of the Critical Areas must be protected using the best available scientific information, also known as **best available science (BAS)**. The best available science (BAS) or valid science can be defined as research conducted by qualified individuals utilizing documented methodologies that results in verifiable outcomes and conclusions. In the context of critical areas protection, a valid scientific process is one that produces reliable information useful in understanding the consequences of a local government's regulatory decisions. When possible, counties and cities should engage with a certified scientific expert or team of experts to assist in identifying and determining the best available scientific information, as well as assessing its applicability to the relevant critical areas.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARA)

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARA) are defined under the GMA as "areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, including areas where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of the water or is susceptible to reduced recharge."

The goal of establishing Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas is to protect the functions and values of a community's drinking water by preventing pollution and maintaining supply. The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter [WAC 165-190-100](#) outlines additional requirements for local governments to determine Critical Aquifer Recharge Area classification and designation.

[WAC 165-190-100](#) Critical Aquifer Recharge Area:

- 1) Potable water is an essential life sustaining element for people and many other species. Much of Washington's drinking water comes from groundwater. Once groundwater is contaminated it is difficult, costly, and sometimes impossible to clean up. Preventing contamination is necessary to avoid exorbitant costs, hardships, and potential physical harm to people and ecosystems.
- 2) The quality and quantity of groundwater in an aquifer is inextricably linked to its recharge area. Where aquifers and their recharge areas have been studied, affected counties and cities should use this information as the basis for classifying and designating these areas. Where no specific studies

have been done, counties and cities may use existing soil and surficial geologic information to determine where recharge areas exist. To determine the threat to groundwater quality, existing land use activities and their potential to lead to contamination should be evaluated.

- 3) Counties and cities must classify recharge areas for aquifers according to the aquifer vulnerability. Vulnerability is the combined effect of hydrogeological susceptibility to contamination and the contamination loading potential. High vulnerability may be indicated by hydrogeological conditions that facilitate degradation, particularly where combined with land uses that contribute, or may potentially contribute, directly or indirectly to contamination that may degrade groundwater. Low vulnerability may be indicated by the combination of hydrogeological conditions that do not facilitate degradation and land uses that do not contribute, or are not likely to contribute, contaminants that will degrade groundwater. Hydrological conditions may include those induced by limited recharge of an aquifer. Reduced aquifer recharge from effective impervious surfaces may result in higher concentrations of contaminants than would otherwise occur.

The Critical Areas Ordinances must be evaluated and revised as needed every eight years.

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) - Vision 2050 Growth Strategy

PSRC is a regional planning agency consisting of Pierce, King, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties that assists in the coordination of regional and local planning initiatives. The region's population is anticipated to reach 5.8 million people by 2050. PSRC has collaborated with the region's cities, counties, Tribes, ports, agencies, businesses, and communities to develop VISION 2050, the region's growth strategy, to prepare for this growth and serve as a guide for sustaining a healthy environment, thriving communities, and a strong economy.

VISION 2050's multicounty planning policies are adopted under the state's Growth Management Act. Multicounty planning policies address regionwide issues within a collaborative planning framework. Counties and cities look to multicounty planning policies to inform updates to countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plan updates.

PSRC Vision 2050 Chapter	Table 1: PSRC VISION 2050 Relevant Policies
ENVIRONMENT	<p>Goal: The region cares for the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving water quality, and reducing air pollutants. The health of all residents and the economy is connected to the health of the environment. Planning at all levels considers the impacts of land use, development, and transportation on the ecosystem.</p> <p>MPP-En-2 Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment at regional, countywide, and local levels.</p> <p>MPP-En-3 Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality and climate change.</p>

	MPP-En-4 Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment.
	MPP-En-6 Use the best information available at all levels of planning, especially scientific information, when establishing and implementing environmental standards established by any level of government.
	MPP-En-8 Reduce impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by noise, air pollution, or other environmental impacts.
	MPP-En-9 Enhance urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.
	MPP-En-10 Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services, including protection of watersheds and wellhead areas that are sources of the region’s drinking water supplies.
	MPP-En-11 Designate, protect, and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas through mechanisms, such as the review and comment of countywide planning policies and local plans and provisions.
	MPP-En-17 Maintain and restore natural hydrological functions and water quality within the region’s ecosystems and watersheds to recover the health of Puget Sound.
	MPP-En-18 Reduce stormwater impacts from transportation and development through watershed planning, redevelopment and retrofit projects, and low-impact development.
CLIMATE CHANGE	Goal: The region substantially reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) and prepares for climate change impacts.
	MPP-CC-7 Advance state, regional, and local actions that support resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.
	MPP-CC-8 Increase resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on water, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy. Prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable populations.
	MPP-CC-9 Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region’s hydrological systems.
PUBLIC SERVICES	Goal: The region supports development with adequate public facilities and services in a timely, coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective manner that supports local and regional growth planning objectives.
	MPP-PS-22 Provide residents of the region with access to high quality drinking water that meets or is better than federal and state requirements.

	MPP-PS-23 Promote coordination among local and tribal governments and water providers and suppliers to meet long-term water needs in the region in a manner that supports the region’s growth strategy.
	MPP-PS-25 Protect the source of the water supply to meet the needs for both human consumption and for environmental balance.

One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan

One Tacoma is the City's Comprehensive Plan which guides our community's development over the long term and describes how our community's vision for the future is to be achieved. In short, it is a blueprint for the future character of our city. The Plan guides decisions on land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, parks and the environment. It also sets standards for roads and other infrastructure, identifies how they will be paid for, and establishes the basis for zoning and development regulations. The *One Tacoma* Comprehensive Plan contains eleven chapters, or elements, with goals and policies identified for each element.

As part of the Planning Commission’s review and recommendations, the Commission must determine if a proposed amendment is consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

One Tacoma Plan Chapter	TABLE 2: One Tacoma Plan Relevant Goals and Policies
ENVIRONMENT and WATERSHED HEALTH	Policy EN–3.23 Encourage infiltration of stormwater to promote aquifer recharge and assure continuous and adequate groundwater supply.
	Policy EN–3.26 Prevent groundwater contamination through performance criteria and guidelines for siting, design, construction and operation of commercial and industrial structures and activities.
	Policy EN–3.27 Support an ongoing effort to monitor groundwater quality in order to determine the effectiveness of the groundwater program over time.
	Policy EN–3.28 Protect the quality of groundwater used for public water supplies to ensure adequate sources of potable water for Tacoma and the region.
	Policy EN–3.6 Limit impervious surfaces within open Space Corridors, shorelines and designated critical areas to reduce impacts on hydrologic function, air and water quality, habitat connectivity and tree canopy.
	Policy EN–3.8 Manage the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff entering Tacoma waterbodies, so as to protect public health and safety, surface and groundwater quality and the ecological functions of natural drainage systems.

	<p>Policy EN-1.17 Assess and periodically review the best available science for managing critical areas and natural resources and utilize the development of plans and regulations while also taking into consideration Tacoma’s obligation to meet urban-level densities under the Growth Management Act.</p>
	<p>Policy EN-1.18 Evaluate climate data and consider climate risks in the development of regulations, plans and programs.</p>
	<p>Policy EN-1.19 Evaluate trends in watershed and environmental health using current and historical data and information to guide improvements in the effectiveness of City plans, regulations and infrastructure investments</p>
	<p>Policy EN-1.12 Coordinate plans and investments with other jurisdictions, air and water quality regulators, watershed councils, soil conservation organizations and community organizations and groups to maximize the benefits and cost-effectiveness of watershed environmental efforts and investments.</p>
DESIGN and DEVELOPMENT	<p>Policy DD-4.7 Emphasize the natural physical qualities of the neighborhood (for example, trees, marine view, and natural features) and the site in locating and developing residential areas, provided such development can be built without adversely impacting the natural areas. Where possible, development should be configured to utilize existing natural features as an amenity to the development.</p>
	<p>Policy DD-5.9 Integrate natural and green infrastructure, such as street trees, native landscaping, green spaces, green roofs, gardens, and vegetated stormwater management systems, into centers and corridors.</p>
	<p>Policy DD-7.5 Encourage site and building designs that make efficient use of water and manage stormwater as a resource.</p>
	<p>Policy DD-12.1 Ensure that new building and site development practices promote environmental health and ecosystem services, such as pollutant reduction, carbon sequestration, air cooling, water filtration, or reduction of stormwater runoff.</p>
ENGAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTATION Element	<p>Goal AD-6: Maintain Tacoma’s Comprehensive Plan in order to ensure that it remains relevant and is consistent with current regulatory and policy frameworks.</p>
	<p>Policy AD-1.9 Utilize community members’ knowledge and input on policy priorities to update the Comprehensive Plan and ensure that it remains relevant and consistent with community needs.</p>
	<p>Policy AD-5.1 Engage in regular interdepartmental communications to share information about City functional plans and to ensure that they are consistent with one another.</p>

	<p>Policy AD-5.2 Collaborate with City partners to address local and regional policy issues and to ensure that planning efforts are mutually supportive. City partners include city, county, state, federal and tribal governments; regional entities; the private sector; non-profit organizations; research institutions and community groups.</p>
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The Critical Areas Ordinance in Relation to the Comprehensive Plan

Per [RCW 36.70.330](#), the Comprehensive Plan must provide for protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies and shall review drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound.

Under WAC [365-196-485](#):

- Jurisdictions are required to include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas.
- Counties and cities are required to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas for multiple purposes, including those areas needed as critical habitat by wildlife.
- Because the critical areas regulations must be consistent with the comprehensive plan, each comprehensive plan should set forth the underlying policies for the jurisdiction's critical areas program.

Section C. Recent Legislative Background

2022 Annual Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan

The South Tacoma Neighborhood Council (STNC) submitted an application to the Planning Commission in March 2021 for consideration during the 2022 Annual Amendment process. The application sought to (a) update the One Tacoma Plan and the TMC applicable to the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) and the aquifer recharge areas to address environmental and health risks and further prioritize protection of the STGPD; and (b) transform the South Tacoma Manufacturing/Industrial Center into an Economic Green Zone that fosters environmentally sustainable industry specifically within South Tacoma, above and near this water source.

The Planning Commission conducted an assessment of the STNC's application, pursuant to TMC 13.02.070.E, and considered public comments received through a public scoping hearing in June 2021, and made a determination in July 2021 to move the application forward for technical analysis following a two-phased approach:

- **Phase 1: STGPD Code Amendments** – Update TMC 13.06.070.D pertaining to STGPD, to be done in the future 2023 Amendment Cycle, with creation of a work plan to occur during the 2022 Amendment cycle, developed in collaboration with the City of Tacoma Environmental Services Department, Tacoma Public Utilities – Tacoma Water, and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The work plan may include review of allowed land uses, review of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, refinement of allowed uses and boundaries, and periodic update of the STGPD to ensure the regulations fulfill the intent of protecting the district.

- **Phase 2: Creation of an Economic Green Zone** – Evaluate the establishment of an Economic Green Zone (EGZ) to attract green industry to the City’s manufacturing/industrial centers, taking into account the recently adopted 2030 Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy (Resolution No. 40878, November 30, 2021). At this time, this phase has not been budgeted or resourced by the City Council.

Upon completing technical analyses and factoring in public comments, the Planning Commission forwarded its recommendations on the 2022 Amendment Package to the City Council in May 2022. With respect to the STNC’s application, the Commission recommended that the City Council:

- a) Approve the Work Plan for STGPD Code Amendments.
- b) Consider the merits of a moratorium on future development projects, given that significant permit activity and development during the phased process could pre-empt the broader planning efforts.

The City Council and its Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee conducted reviews of the 2022 Amendment Package in May-June 2022, including holding a public hearing on June 7, 2022, and adopted the package on June 28, 2022. The Work Plan for STGPD Code Amendments was approved with Amended Substitute Resolution No. 40985, which also initiated the consideration of a moratorium for the STGPD.

Establishment of a South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium

The City Council’s initiation of the STGPD moratorium was in response to public comments received by the Planning Commission and the City Council during the review and adoption processes for the 2022 Annual Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission conducted four meetings, on July 6, July 20, August 3, and August 17, 2022, in response to public comments regarding the moratorium. Planning and Development Services staff also conducted a community informational meeting on July 27, 2022. The Planning Commission completed its review and deliberations of the matter through a public process, and forwarded its Findings of Fact and Recommendations Report, along with a letter of recommendations, to the City Council for consideration on August 17, 2022.

On March 7, 2023 the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 28872 enacting a moratorium within the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District as recommended by the IPS Committee. The moratorium in Ord. 28872 became effective March 20, 2023 and were enacted for an initial period of up to one year, to expire on March 20, 2024.

The City Council ordinance amending Chapter 13.06 of the Tacoma Municipal Code enacted interim land use regulations temporarily prohibiting the establishment of new, or expansion of, existing underground storage tanks, metal recycling, and auto wrecking facilities within the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District, for an initial period of up to one year, to maintain the current level of those activities and uses until the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District periodic code review and amendment process initiated by Amended Substitute Resolution No. 40985 is completed.

Per State law and Tacoma Municipal Code, the South Tacoma Work Plan must address any issues or uses affected by the moratorium.

Section D. Related Planning Efforts

The City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities are currently engaged in multiple planning efforts to address long-term water quality and supply consistent with the goals of the GMA and One Tacoma Plan. The South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District is a key aspect of the City's approach to protection of this resource but is also one piece of a broader programmatic and regulatory framework. Coordinating the South Tacoma Protection District update as a companion to these efforts allows the City to both leverage the resources of these efforts and to ensure greater consistency and compatibility of these efforts. The following is a brief description of these related plans and programs.

1. South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium

- **Lead Department/staff:** Planning and Development Services, Tacoma Water, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, Environmental Services
- **Purpose:** A moratorium was established in the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District to prevent the vesting of new underground storage tanks and metal recycling/auto wrecking facilities until such time as the STGPD code amendment is complete. A moratorium may only be enacted for up to 1-year initially. 6-month extensions may be considered through a City Council process.
- **Key tasks/elements:** City Council public hearing; First Reading of Ordinance to extend the moratorium for 6-months and to consider modifications; Final Reading of Ordinance.
- **Current Status:** Moratorium is currently in effect. The City Council is expected to consider an extension in the first quarter of 2024.
- **Timeline:** The current moratorium expires on March 20, 2024.
- **Engagement:** Public comments will be considered through a public hearing as part of the consideration of an extension.

2. Tacoma Water Integrated Resource Plan, 2023-2024

- **Lead Department/staff:** Tacoma Water, Glen George (Civil Engineer PE, Principal)
- **Purpose:** An Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is comprised of an assessment of the future water needs and a plan to meet those future needs. It is "integrated" in that it looks at both demand side (conservation, water efficiency, etc.) resources as well as the more traditional supply side (new sources, maximizing existing sources, etc.) resources in making its recommendations on how best to meet future water energy needs for the Utility.
- **Key tasks/elements:** Update climate change information, Update demand forecast, Groundwater questions and concerns including PFAS in sources, Groundwater Protection District Code Review
- **Status/Timeline:**
 - Under contract with consultant and finalizing workplan in December 2023.
 - Complete work plan actions in Quarter 1 and 2 of 2024
 - Final report by August 2024.
- **Engagement:** Convening a Public Advisory Committee that will hold 4 meetings

3. Health Impact Assessment

- **Lead Department/staff:** Tacoma Pierce County Health Department; Planning and Development Services
- **Purpose:** Health Impact Assessments (HIA) serve as a tool to inform decision-makers, and the public, of the potentially significant impacts – both beneficial and harmful – of a proposed project, policy, or program.
- **Key tasks/elements:** There are generally six iterative phases of an HIA:
 - Screening
 - Scoping
 - Assessment
 - Recommendations
 - Reporting and dissemination
 - Monitoring and evaluation
- **Current Status:** The City of Tacoma has currently funded a Health Impact Assessment associated with the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District code update and is in discussions with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership program to conduct HIAs as part of long-range planning initiatives.
- **Timeline:** Anticipated to begin 1st quarter of 2024 for completion in 3rd quarter. However, the specific timeline will depend on the results of the screening and scoping phases.
- **Engagement:** Specific engagement approaches have not yet been determined but an HIA typically includes extensive community participation throughout the six phases.

4. Tacoma Water Wellhead Protection Program

- **Lead Department/Staff:** Tacoma Water, Scott Hallenberg (Operations Manager) is Program Manager and Alex White (Water Quality Specialist) is staff lead.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the wellhead protection program is to prevent contamination of groundwater used for drinking water, thus protecting the health of people using groundwater for drinking water.
- **Key tasks/elements:** Comprehensive review of current approved plan. This includes: updating contaminant inventories, and regulatory and impacted customer contact lists; correcting Dept. of Health Source Water Assessment Program (DOH SWAP) information; and review time of travel data (TOT) and begin comparison of existing flow information with new USGS data (when available).
- **Status/Timeline:** Review in progress, contaminant inventories to be completed by end of 2024 and future work scoped for 2025.
- **Engagement:** Process involves direct engagement with customers in the affected areas and coordination with/assistance from TPCHD, Environmental Services, and Planning and Development Services.
- **Project link:** <https://www.mytpu.org/about-tpu/services/water/water-source/water-system-plan/>

5. Tacoma Urban Waters Protection Plan (Watershed Plan)

- **Lead Department/staff:** Environmental Services, Environmental Programs Group. Laura Nokes (Engineering Project Manager) and Shauna Hansen (Civil Engineer PE)
- **Purpose:** The purpose of Tacoma’s Urban Waters Protection Plan is to implement strategic stormwater management actions to protect our streams, lakes, wetlands, bays and Puget Sound from polluted runoff. The plan uses a data-based approach to prioritize the most effective stormwater actions and projects, at the most important locations, to build a more healthy and resilient Tacoma and a thriving Puget Sound while taking into account city planning priorities, partnership opportunities, neighborhood needs, critical habitat protection, and anticipated climate change impacts. The locations of these actions will be selected to provide more equitable stormwater services throughout Tacoma.
- **Key tasks/elements:**
 - Phase 1: Research (January 2020 to June 2021). Gathered information needed to feed into the watershed prioritization model to make meaningful recommendations and decisions on stormwater management actions throughout the City. Included review of regulatory drivers and city and regional policies and plan, receiving water conditions assessment, and stakeholder engagement.
 - Phase 2: Watershed Prioritization Model (July 2021 to May 2023). Identify Solutions based on watershed characterization assessment and community needs. Develop, build and test Prioritization Modeling Tool
 - Phase 3: Stormwater Priority Action List (June 2023 to December 2024). Develop Action Plan with prioritized stormwater management actions and projects with tasks, goals, and partners based on tool outputs. List includes regional stormwater capital projects and system retrofits as well as program activities such as source control, education and outreach, stormwater inspections, and enhanced system maintenance. Review draft list with partners and stakeholder to finalize list of recommended actions. Coordinate with Stormwater Comprehensive Plan development and budget planning for 2025-26 biennial budget.
 - Phase 4: Plan Implementation (Begins January 2025). Work on implementation of funded actions including timing, resources, partnerships, and collaboration opportunities. Identify and pursue future funding opportunities for unfunded actions.
- **Current Status:** Scoping, adoption - This plan is independent of the Comprehensive Planning process but will be referenced as a functional plan supporting the One Tacoma Plan Ch. 4 Environment and Watershed Health. No Council Adoption process is currently being proposed.
- **Timeline:** The Urban Waters Protection Plan draft list of actions is scheduled to be released in Q1 2024, with review by partner organization and community members in Q2 2024 and finalized in Q3 2024. Implementation of funded actions will begin in 2025.
- **Engagement:** Cross-departmental engagement with other City departments, Watershed Councils, Neighborhood Councils and Safe Streets groups, follow up with individuals who provided feedback at initial community workshops, City Commissions and Council IPS Sub-committee.

6. Stormwater Comprehensive Plan

- **Lead Department/staff:** Environmental Services, Environmental Programs Group. Dana de Leon (Assistant Division Manager)
- **Purpose:** The City of Tacoma is developing its first ever Stormwater Comprehensive Plan (SWCP) that will describe how the City will manage, operate, and finance stormwater-related activities within Tacoma City Limits. The purpose of the SWCP is to guide how the City will address surface water and stormwater management needs and requirements, including program management, operation and maintenance (O&M), climate change, capital facilities, and financial elements, while also balancing rates and the financial resources available to the City.
- **Key tasks/elements:**
 - Review of previous studies, plans, and other information associated with current and proposed stormwater systems;
 - Develop a prioritized list of projects from the current capital facilities implementation plan (CIP) with Conceptual design and cost estimate (5%) for up to 5 CIP projects;
 - Develop a Stormwater Management Plan template consistent with anticipated NPDES permit requirements;
 - Evaluate City resources relating to current and future needs for NPDES compliance, including staffing, equipment, and funding; and
 - Develop actions for anticipated sea level rise, increased storm intensities and other issues related to climate change.
- **Current Status:** Scoping, adoption - This plan will be developed in 2024 and will be referenced as a functional plan supporting the One Tacoma Plan Chapter 4 - Environment and Watershed Health. No Council Adoption process is currently being proposed.
- **Timeline:** The SWCP will be developed in 2024, with input by partner organization and community members in 2024, and review by partner organization and community members in 2025. SWCP will be finalized in 2025.
- **Engagement:** Cross-departmental engagement with other City departments, Neighborhood Councils, City Commissions and Council IPS Sub-committee.

7. One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan

- **Lead Department/staff:** Planning and Development Services and Public Works
- **Purpose:** Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan is an important tool that establishes the City's future vision and policy direction, as well as guiding growth and development over the next 25 years. Concurrently, the City's Transportation Master Plan is being updated, which will respond to transformations that are occurring through zoning changes, such as Home in Tacoma and Sub-Area Planning efforts. The update will also seek to better align the TMP with Vision Zero and the Safe Systems approach, Tacoma's anti-racist transformation and equity focus, as well as address emerging policy and technology trends.
- **Key tasks/elements:** The updated plan will help maintain collaborative relationships within the community and surrounding jurisdictions and establish or confirm existing policies and priorities for coordinated development/redevelopment and necessary infrastructure consistent with the State

Growth Management Act, Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2050 and Transportation 2050, and the City of Tacoma's ongoing Strategic Plan process.

- **Current Status** - Scoping, adoption. The initial review, gap analysis and scoping started in the third quarter of 2023. This process is expected to last about two years and will be completed by mid-2025.
- **Timeline:**
 - Engagement and Communications: Q4 2023 – Q3 2025
 - Plan Development: Q3 2023 – Q1 2025
 - Legislative Process: Q4 2023 – Q3 2025
- **Engagement:** A community involvement plan is being drafted by the Planning and Development Services department as of the fourth quarter of 2023. The public engagement will be conducted in three phases.
 - Phase 1: Priority Setting (Winter/Spring 2024) The intent is to meet with our residents and establish priorities for the Comprehensive Plan update.
 - Phase 2: Community Check in (Summer 2024) Connect with communities engaged in the winter and spring to update on progress and initial policy ideas based on their priorities.
 - Phase 3: Draft Plan (Spring 2025) Gather broad input on draft policies.
- **Project and document links:**
https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/planning_and_development_services/planning_services/one_tacoma_comprehensive_plan

Coordinated Project Schedules

The following is a tentative outlook for the schedule for each of the related projects and overall timing. The work that will be completed through each of these efforts may result in further recommendations for amendments to the One Tacoma Plan or Critical Areas Preservation Ordinance. The general schedules currently align to support a broad integration of findings and recommendations into the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan update. The schedule below for the STGPD Code Development anticipates deliverables completed from the IRP, HIA, and Urban Waters Protection Plan in mid-2024 to support code development. Further, the proposed schedule would incorporate the STGPD code into the adoption process for the Comprehensive Plan in 2025.

	2023	2024				2025	
Project	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Moratorium							
Integrated Resource Plan							
Health Impact Assessment							
Wellhead Protection Plan							
Urban Waters Protection Plan							
Stormwater Comprehensive Plan							
STGPD Code Development							
Comprehensive Plan Update							

Section E. Available or Upcoming Data and Best Available Science

The following data and information will be used to support the development of code amendment recommendations. Additional code review will include benchmarking analysis to consider best management practices adopted by peer jurisdictions.

- Department of Ecology Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Guidance
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0510028.pdf>
- Pierce County Best Available Science Review
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/121377/CAO-BAS-and-Gap-Analysis-report-23?bidId=>
- City of Tacoma Best Available Science Review (Part of 2024 Comprehensive Plan update – to be posted online)
- Tacoma Water Groundwater Modeling Assessment (Tacoma Water – IRP)
 - Objective: Assess how the newly-produced USGS Southeast Sound groundwater model may be utilized by Tacoma Water in the future to analyze it groundwater supplies.
- Climate Change Assessment (Tacoma Water – IRP)
 - Review and Assess Climate Change Models/Assumptions used by Others
 - Develop Approach for Integration into Water Yield Supply/Demand Model (WYSDM)
 - Water Quality Effects: Assessment of impacts related to fires, algae, milfoil, curly pond leaf, pine beetles, and other climate change related challenges to water supply and quality, based on a literature review.

- Climate Migration: Assessment of the possibility of impacts of population shifts due to climate change and regional trends in post-pandemic work arrangements on the water demand forecast, based on a literature review.

F. South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District - Scope of Work

Initial Work Plan - Resolution 40985 (Adopted June 2022)

The Work Plan adopted by the City Council in Resolution 40985 identified the following major issues to be addressed:

- a) General program awareness
- b) Enforcement and monitoring
- c) Define "periodic update"
- d) Review proposal for prohibited uses from [application](#)
 - Metal Recycling/auto wrecking facilities*
 - Above ground storage tanks
 - Below ground storage tanks*

*These uses were subject to the adopted moratorium and must be addressed as part of the Work Plan
- e) Code implementation and code location (including potential relocation)
- f) Infiltration Policy
- g) Program Funding

Assumed Resources: Work to be performed with existing and available staff.

Proposed Additions to Scope of Work

Based on community input, Planning Commission direction, and assessment of related projects, staff proposes to expand the scope of work to include these additional elements. The scope of the amendments may also change in response to the findings and recommendations associated with the review of the best available science and related projects:

- Landscaping and Tree Canopy Standards for Industrial Zones, Commercial Zones, and Tacoma Mall Regional Growth Center in the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District
- Impervious surface standards (geographic and land use scope still to be determined)
- Broader consideration of High Impact Uses and potential contaminant sources
- Health Impact Assessment: The specific scope and policy/regulatory focus has not yet been determined. However, the HIA could potentially expand the scope of policy and regulatory amendments that are considered as part of this review.
- Improve integration of STGPD Overlay Zone with Critical Areas Ordinance (TMC 13.11) and address applicability of TMC 13.11 to the STGPD.
- Map refinements for the South Tacoma Aquifer and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Recommendations or issues identified from related projects
- Recommended policy amendments, project lists, proposed investments, and prioritization recommendations for the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan relating.

Updated Resource Assumptions

- Tacoma Water has allocated funding to support the retention of external consultant services to support the development of the IRP.
- Planning and Development Services has been allocated funding from the City Council to support the retention of external consultant services for the Health Impact Assessment as well as additional funding for general consultant services to support the STGPD Code Amendments.

Community Engagement

The adopted Work Plan included a general identification of stakeholder groups and engagement strategies, including the following:

- Staff Team (representing TPCHD, Tacoma Water, ES and PDS)
- Permitted and Non-permitted Businesses o Homeowners and Taxpayers
- Neighborhood Councils (South Tacoma, Central, and South End)
- Planning Commission and City Council
- Additional local, regional, state and federal agencies and organizations, as may be identified
- Methods: Community Meetings; Surveys; Targeted Ads.
- Dissemination of information, data, maps and publicity materials that are user-friendly
- Focus on Equity

Engagement Next Steps

1. Coordinate an engagement strategy for the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District as part of the broader Comprehensive Plan Update and to support engagement coordination among the related projects to leverage planned engagement.
 - a. Including establishment of a Critical Areas Review Team with both internal and external SMEs and community-based participants.
2. Initial outreach efforts for 1st quarter 2024:
 - a. Late January: South Tacoma Community Kick-off Meeting
 - b. Late February: South Tacoma Plan-a-Thon
 - c. Mid-March: South Tacoma Report Out

From: Courtney Davis <c.davis622@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 2:29 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment (8/27 meeting):

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Courtney Davis and I live in District 3. I am unable to attend the city council meeting 8/27 and would like to provide public comment on the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection Updated Moratorium and the ShotSpotter pilot program.

Groundwater Protection Moratorium:

Please approve this moratorium; it needs to continue for the safety of our water supply. The moratorium doesn't go far enough and should include all development. The actual code update desperately needs to limit the amount of impervious surfaces (pavement) above the aquifer recharge area. It should include strategies to limit toxic tire debris from getting into our groundwater, and not allow exceptions.

ShotSpotter Pilot Program:

Here are a few words borrowed from the Black Panther Party of Tacoma, that summarizes why we should not be implementing this program:

- The decision to implement a ShotSpotter pilot program was made without direct input from residents of Tacoma or approval by the City Council, which highlights a lack of democratic oversight and transparency.
- ShotSpotter is an unreliable system with a high failure rate, often leading to increased policing without reducing gun violence, and it disproportionately impacts Black and Brown communities and vulnerable populations like our unhoused neighbors.
- Independent studies show that ShotSpotter has no significant impact on reducing firearm-related homicides or improving arrest outcomes, and the technology is often promoted by biased studies funded by the industry itself.
- Many cities, including Chicago, have ended their use of ShotSpotter due to its ineffectiveness, high cost, and the potential harm it causes through unnecessary police interactions, particularly in marginalized communities.
- The City Council should direct the city manager to halt implementation of the ShotSpotter pilot program, as we do not want this harmful and ineffective technology in our city, and public safety should be under our democratic control.

Thank you for your time,
Courtney Davis
District 3

From: twm1301@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 11:44 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Hines, John; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgly; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; ssaldage@cityoftacoma.org
Subject: Res.@41519 and Res. 41520

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon.

These 2 Resolutions are on the agenda for Tuesdays Council meeting and whereas I do not have a comment on these specifically, I would like to make a request to all of you.

When Ms. Bingham will present those items to you, would you please ask the Planning Department to update the City's MFTE website which shows all projects approved, under construction and completed.

This site says it would be updated quarterly, but the last update was one year ago, 23 August 2023. I have mentioned this fact in conversations with CM Hines, CM Bushnell and even with Ms. Bingham and all said "we'll look into it". But, nothing has changed. Could the Planning Department please update this list?

I for one would be grateful if you could make a mention of this during the presentation for those two Resolutions. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Monika May

From: VoiceforTacoma <voicefortacoma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; Sadalge, Sandesh; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina; Lee, Maria; Muse, William; Wilson, Jessica; hbrenner@tacomaavenues.org; City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; pccouncil@piercecountywa.gov; pchumanservices@piercecountywa.gov; tips@king5.com; tips@komonews.com; health@tpchd.org; info@trm.org; governor.inslee@gov.wa.gov; news@thenewstribune.com; news@tacomaweekly.com; info@endhomelessness.org; info@wscadv.org; info@downtowntacoma.com; info@tacomabusinesscouncil.org; info@tacomachamber.org; info@uwpc.org
Subject: Critical Concerns: Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Community Safety in Tacoma
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: Community Forum

Dear City Officials, Community Leaders, and All Concerned Parties,

I don't know where each of you resides, but I urge you to take a walk downtown after work. Start on Pacific Avenue, head toward the Tacoma Rescue Mission, or venture near the Tacoma Mall on 38th Street by the plazas around McDonald's and Guitar Center. Perhaps you'll visit Hosmer Street near 92nd or cross the bridge on 6th Avenue near the new Gage on Sixth. Don't forget Parkland, near the Pierce County Library. The point is, I could name endless areas in Tacoma, and in every one, you will find people suffering—struggling with drug addiction, mental illness, homelessness, or often, all three.

As leaders responsible for this city, how does it feel to see citizens in such distress? You are tasked with ensuring the well-being of Tacoma's residents, yet how do you reconcile seeing individuals struggling with extreme distress wandering our streets? You may ignore this email, but I will not stop giving a voice to those who are suffering. These individuals are not only struggling mentally and emotionally, they are being failed by a society that looks down on them instead of helping them.

Every day, hardworking Tacoma citizens drive to work and witness this suffering. Some business owners complain about the stench of urine and feces outside their storefronts, but how are these complaints addressed? They aren't—the situation only worsens.

Consider the students at the University of Washington Tacoma who walk through their campus, passing homeless individuals in dirty, weather-beaten clothes, who haven't showered, and are hungry. These students feel awkward, afraid, and confused. This isn't just a matter of public safety—where is the humanity in this? Are we all too busy to care about those who are most vulnerable?

Take, for example, the sight of a young homeless woman lying on the street near 38th, her stomach exposed, while 30 cars pass by, not one stopping to check if she's alive. Is this what Tacoma stands for? Does this city only care about those who are deemed "productive," while ignoring the rest?

I've read that Tacoma's annual spending on homelessness is between \$10 million and \$20 million (2023), including emergency shelters, supportive services, and affordable housing projects. If this is true, why do we still see large tent encampments like the one near the alleyway at Tacoma Rescue Mission? Where are these emergency shelters? Or are we simply being told that all the housing is full? Is that really the case, when millions of dollars are allocated by the state and city? Where is the proof of this spending? Do we, as tax paying citizens, not deserve to see actual evidence?

Let's not forget that those suffering on the streets were once law enforcement, medics, teachers, principals, bankers, combat veterans, victims of accidents—people who were productive, civil citizens before life's misfortunes left them in these dire circumstances. Most importantly, they are someone's mother, sister, aunt, cousin, father, or brother. They are more than their current situation.

I also want to address how we determine who receives housing and treatment. Some argue that these individuals are

homeless by choice—that they refuse help and treatment. But responders and specialists say they cannot intervene unless the person is a threat to themselves or others. So I ask: isn't smoking fentanyl or using any harmful substance a danger to oneself? When someone can't perform basic functions like showering or civil conversation, isn't that a sign of harm? When drugs and drug paraphernalia litter public parks and buses, and the smell of burnt chemicals fills the air, isn't that harmful not only to the individuals themselves but to the citizens of Tacoma who deserve a safe and clean environment? There are babies on the bus with their mothers who can smell burnt foil. Addressing drug abuse comprehensively, including the severe issue of fentanyl and any other hard drug, is crucial in understanding the full scope of the problem and implementing effective solutions.

Isn't drug use on the streets illegal? If so, why does the cycle of selling, using, and dying persist? Why is no one held accountable? Why aren't the drug dealers responsible for distributing these dangerous substances being arrested, while adequate resources to help those struggling remain insufficient? Where is the responsibility for breaking this harmful cycle? Every day, citizens are pulled over for minor traffic violations—whether it's failing to signal or not stopping before a turn. People receive speeding tickets, go to jail for DUIs, and are held accountable for various crimes. So why is the sale of some of the most potent and dangerous drugs not treated with the same urgency? Isn't this a crime as well? A crime against humanity.

At what point is the suffering enough? When someone dies on the street and their body is quietly removed as if they never existed?

We are so quick to neglect those who don't serve us or benefit us, thinking ourselves better while treating them as second-class citizens simply because they are in worse situations. Why aren't there more programs to address the stigmatization of homelessness? It is the stigmas and the cruel comments from our fellow citizens that are the real problem. Without addressing these attitudes, nothing will change. If our leaders of our community don't step up, who will?

If our community doesn't care, then who will? Will it only be the federally funded paramedics, doctors, and nurses who are required by their duty to help the sick? Is that all we can rely on? Because they are getting paid to work? Or is it only the individuals who have recovered from homelessness or addiction who return to serve as resources? Is this truly all we are offering?

We need more support. We must stop stigmatizing the users and focus on the dealers who perpetuate this cycle of addiction. We need better pathways to treatment and more comprehensive resources for those suffering from mental illness. Homelessness is not just a drug problem—it is a complex issue, with roots in unemployment, abuse, trauma, and systemic failure. At the end of the day, these individuals are suffering, and whatever efforts we're making now aren't enough. Tacoma's streets have deteriorated drastically over the past decade.

I urge you to consider this: How much longer will we let this happen before taking real, meaningful action? Never?

At the end of the day, you were elected as community members for a reason. All the campaign signs with your names on them represent the trust the community placed in you, and that trust will only be fulfilled through real, impactful change. The people of Tacoma placed their trust in you because they believe in your ability to inspire the city and make real, tangible changes. We rely on you to lead with integrity and enact solutions that truly address these pressing issues—not superficial gestures or rhetoric. We need meaningful action beyond the promises that have been made.

I hope that, even if I do not receive a direct response, you will take these concerns to heart and consider their impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Voice for Tacoma

From: Michelle Mood <moodm@kenyon.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 1:08 PM
To: City Clerk's Office; Scott, Jamika; Woodards, Victoria; Bushnell, Joe; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Warren, Bucoda; Diaz, Olgy
Subject: Cyberauthoritarianism via Shot Spotter

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

How in the world has the TPD been given authority to start GUN SHOT SPOTTER? What is this, a new step towards cyberauthoritarianism with microphones in our neighborhood? As a scholar and professor of Chinese politics, this sounds like something China would first put in place and then export to dictatorships around the world. Inflammatory words? No, we want peace and freedom from spying, thank you very much. Implementing this will radically change the relationship between the people and the police. Instead of our city being presumed happy, safe, and secure, the 24-7 monitoring will be assuming we're rife with gunshots. Is that really a marketing point you want out there?

And you KNOW, in practice, this has not gone well. Stop pretending it will not be abused. It has been in the past. One the heels of the Manny Ellis trials, this is tone deaf.

For shame!

Michelle Mood
3719 S. Gunnison St
Tacoma, WA 98409

1-740-233-6333

From: Morgan Vanderpool <morganicmovement@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 1:14 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Community Voice AGAINST ShotSpotter

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning- I'm a resident of District 4, and have lived and served individuals and families in Tacoma for 16 years. I'm writing to share that I am solidly against the implementation of ShotSpotter by Tacoma Police Department.

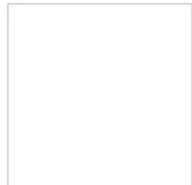
Based on the research ShotSpotter has been shown to be an ineffective crime-reduction tool, and it has a disparate negative impact on persons of color. As an ineffective tool it will waste both the time and effort of TPD, as well as our city's money. While simultaneously reducing the level of safety of communities already at risk of excessive/over policing.

Additionally, let's ally with our sister city Seattle and follow their decision to protect their communities by NOT implementing ShotSpotter.

Please hold our residents' safety at the center of your choice to NOT implement the ShotSpotter technology.

In collaboration for community safety,

Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW (they/elle, he/él)
Collective Neuropractor | Speaker | Facilitator | Trainer | Consultant
www.MorganicMovement.com
Instagram: @MorganicMovement
LinkedIn: [Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW](#)



P.S. If a time-bound response is needed, please feel welcome to text me at 253-697-0190, as my email response time can vary.

From: Richelle Angelone-Lemons <r.angelonelemons@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 1:55 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Community Voice AGAINST ShotSpotter

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

As a resident of Tacoma, I'm writing to share that I am solidly against the implementation of ShotSpotter by Tacoma Police Department.

Based on the research ShotSpotter has been shown to be an ineffective crime-reduction tool, and it has a disparate negative impact on persons of color. As an ineffective tool it will waste both the time and effort of TPD, as well as our city's money. While simultaneously reducing the level of safety of communities already at risk of excessive/over policing.

Additionally, let's ally with our sister city Seattle and follow their decision to protect their communities by NOT implementing ShotSpotter.

Please hold our residents' safety at the center of your choice to NOT implement the ShotSpotter technology.

Respectfully,
Richelle Angelone

From: maggie walker <magwalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 2:28 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Please STOP ShotSpotter

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

I am a resident of District 4 and I am writing to you because I am strongly against the implementation of ShotSpotter by the Tacoma Police Department.

Based on a number of sources ([source 1](#), [source 2](#), [source 3](#), [source 4](#), [source 5](#)), ShotSpotter has been shown to be ineffective in its goals and actually harms police response times. Based on this research, I believe it will be a huge waste of time and money.

There are also immense civil liberty and equity concerns about ShotSpotter... The ACLU is firmly against it, [the DOJ is being urged to investigate the technology for disproportionate over-policing in communities of color](#), and [faulty evidence from ShotSpotter has been used to wrongfully imprison people](#).

I am grateful to know that our neighbors in Seattle have decided NOT to implement ShotSpotter in their city. I hope that we can follow their example.

Please hold our residents' safety at the center of your choice to STOP any implementation of the ShotSpotter technology.

Warmly,
Maggie Walker
4302 S J St
Tacoma, WA 98418

--

Maggie Walker
[they/them](#)
magwalk.me
(401) 714-6314
Tacoma, WA

"Instructions for living a life:

- Pay attention*
 - Be astonished*
 - Tell about it"*
- ~ Mary Oliver*

From: Saiyare Refaei <saiyare.refaei@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 4:33 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: ShotSpotter

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Tacoma City Council,

My name is Saiyare and I am a Tacoma resident.

I recently learned that there is a proposition to implement a ShotSpotter pilot program in Tacoma without direct approval from Tacoma residents. ShotSpotter is unfortunately an unreliable system with a high failure rate that ends up increasing policing without reducing gun violence. I worry the use of ShotSpotter will disproportionately impact BIPOC communities and vulnerable populations such as our unhoused neighbors.


Cities like Chicago have stopped using programs like ShotSpotter because it is ineffective, costly and has grave potential of harm through unnecessary police interactions - especially towards marginalized community members.

Please direct the City Manager to stop the implementation of the ShotSpotter program to prevent any harmful and ineffective technology from impacting our community.

Sincerely,
Saiyare
Tacoma Resident

From: Jay Fish <bartenderfarmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 4:53 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Watch "Community gives feedback on gunshot detection technology pilot in Tacoma" on YouTube

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Council members and the Mayor of the City of Tacoma Washington. I live in the City of Tacoma Council District #4 and we the Citizens of the Eastside don't want the Gunshot detection systems installed in our City of Tacoma. Many cities across the country have the data that it's not effective and just more harassment to the people of color community's within there Cities. The police budget should be spent on more effective Peace Officer Training and bring the numbers up on more officers on the streets with human resources personnel to handle the problem we face in Tacoma. Also we need to change the Charter to the form of Government so we the people can vote  for the proper representation ie a Strong Council and Mayor form of government and also a true Police Accountability Commission with teeth to tackle real problems within our community and the Police Department. We should be adopting the Geroge Floyd Policing Accountability and Reform act pass by the House of Congress and add a few true Accountability aspects to The City of Tacoma law. Please vote no for this this failed gunshot detection technology systems in the City of Tacoma. We need true Police Accountability and Reform Act and a Commission with power to make real change for our City of Tacoma Washington.

Sincerely
Jay Herring

https://youtu.be/M-yLkgapUpU?si=L9jyFnqSZX_9Syn7

From: Daren Holter <darenholter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 7:06 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Community Forum
Attachments: City Council Community Forum 8.27.2024.docx

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see my attached document for the Community Forum at the August 27, 2024 Council meeting.

Daren

August 27, 2024

To whom it may concern,

Over the last several weeks and months I have provided to you and the citizens of Tacoma copies of the documents that have been provided to me through Public Disclosure Requests. The documents prove there is a reason for concern over the amount of lead and other heavy metals are still to this date in the soils at the Tacoma Police Harrison Shooting Range. As I stated, I have filed a formal complaint with the Washington State Department of Ecology and they are currently in talk with the City of Tacoma over these concerns. I have spoken personally to both Council Member Hines and Council Members Rumbaugh about the high levels of lead. I have also contacted the Puyallup Tribe of Indians regarding their property along the Hylebos Waterway potentially being negatively impacted from the outfall from the storm water discharge pipes leading from the Shooting Range. I will continue to work with and help in any way I can with the Department of Ecology to bring an end to this lawless practice of the City of Tacoma not wanting to take responsibility or commit to ending the ongoing contamination of the land and water we all take pride in. I want to thank all of the citizens who have reached out to me regarding this issue and we, as citizens, need to understand if you don't ask questions you will never get answers, if you don't show concern you will never get results or fix a broken system of government.

Daren H. Holter

Daren H. Holter
1823 S Visscher St
Tacoma WA 98465
253-677-0800
darenholter@gmail.com

From: ruba ayub <rubaaayub31@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 5:08 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi City Clerk,

Good evening, my name is Ruba Ayub, and I live in the Stadium District near Stadium High School. I'm here today to voice my strong opposition to the ShotSpotter pilot program in Tacoma. My neighbors and I are deeply concerned about the potential harm this technology could cause, especially to our most vulnerable residents—Black, Brown, and working-class people who already face over-policing, surveillance, and harassment from a justice system that penalizes the poor while protecting the rich.

Recently, Tacoma secured an \$800,000 grant that includes funding for this ShotSpotter pilot. However, I urge the Council to reconsider this course of action. ShotSpotter is a technology that has been rejected by numerous cities across the country, including Seattle, Portland, and Chicago, due to its ineffectiveness and the potential harm it poses to the communities it is intended to protect.

This program does not address the root causes of gun violence in our city. Instead, it introduces a flawed technology with a history of false positives, leading to increased police interactions, particularly in Black and Brown communities. These interactions, often based on inaccurate data, result in unnecessary stops, searches, and in the worst cases, violence.

In Chicago, a 13-year-old boy named Adam Toledo was tragically shot and killed by police during a ShotSpotter-initiated response. This heartbreaking incident serves as a stark reminder of the potentially fatal consequences of using this technology. We cannot let something similar happen here in Tacoma. We cannot allow a technology, widely criticized for its inaccuracies and its potential to escalate police violence, to take root in our city.

Additionally, the process by which this pilot program was initiated raises serious concerns. Councilmember Diaz has already noted that the decision to apply for this grant was made by an unelected City Manager, without the Council's approval. This lack of transparency and accountability is unacceptable, especially when decisions affecting public safety are at stake.

What we need are solutions that truly address the root causes of gun violence in our community—solutions that involve investing in our neighborhoods, providing resources to those who need them most, and building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. ShotSpotter does none of these things. Instead, it offers a quick fix that ultimately does more harm than good.

In closing, I strongly urge the Council to take a stand and cancel the ShotSpotter pilot program. Let's focus on real, community-driven solutions to make Tacoma safer for everyone.

Thank you for your time.
Ruba

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Ruba Ayub
Class of University of Washington '22
Community Organizer with [YouthVoicesforJustice](#)
Founder of [Love is Transformative](#)
To schedule an appointment: <https://calendly.com/loveistransformative>