

TACOMA TIDEFLATS



Steering Committee

Victoria Woodards, Mayor, City of Tacoma
Kristina Walker, Councilmember, City of Tacoma
Bill Sterud, Chairman, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Annette Bryan, Councilmember, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Deanna Keller, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma
Dick Marzano, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma
Bruce Dammeier, County Executive, Pierce County
Ryan Mello, Council Chair, Pierce County
Kim Roscoe, Mayor, City of Fife
Bryan Yambe, Councilmember, City of Fife

City Council
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street, Room 345
Tacoma, WA 98402

5 December 2024

Tacoma City Council:

It is with great excitement that we present to the City Council, and to our community, the Tideflats Subarea Plan Steering Committee recommendation for the Tideflats Subarea Plan. This Plan is the culmination of more than seven years of dedicated work by the partner governments, their elected representatives and staff, the Tideflats Advisory Group, and the many community members and organizations that have contributed their thoughtful ideas, their passion, and their expertise throughout.

The Tideflats is a unique environment, containing marine shorelines, tidal creeks, and critical saltwater, estuarine, and freshwater habitats necessary to support salmon, shellfish, and other marine life; it is home to Pierce County's Port and largest employment center, directly supporting more than 10,000 jobs, with a broad countywide and regional economic impact; it is surrounded by vibrant, urban, and residential neighborhoods, including a burgeoning City Center in the City of Fife, and boasts significant scenic and recreational value; and finally, the Tideflats is part of the ancestral lands of the Spuyaləpabš, or Puyallup Tribe of Indians, who have lived on the headwaters of the Puyallup River since time immemorial and continue to exercise their treaty rights to this day.

This Plan aligns closely with community interests and values by ensuring economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and efficient infrastructure development. The policies are designed to create a balanced approach to development that supports economic growth while protecting the environment and community health. Focus on preserving industrial lands supports the goals of maintaining and expanding our role as a hub for global trade and local economic activity.

This Plan integrates environmental goals that align with the community commitment to sustainability: It includes policies for habitat restoration, brownfield remediation, and the promotion of green industries. These initiatives not only enhance the environmental quality of the Tideflats but also support the community efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and transition to cleaner energy sources.

This Plan prioritizes improvements to transportation infrastructure that are vital for the Manufacturing Industrial Center's operations. By advocating for the enhancement of freight corridors and the integration of multimodal transportation options, the plan supports efficient freight movement and reduces congestion and impacts on surrounding communities.

This Plan reflects a collaborative approach, involving multiple stakeholders, including the five governments. This inclusive process ensures that the regional perspectives and needs are considered in the planning and implementation phases. The emphasis on ongoing dialogue and coordinated problem-solving among stakeholders fosters a supportive environment for the Plan's long-term success.

We appreciate your consideration of this years-long work as you drive toward adoption of this plan and integration into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you,

Tideflats Subarea Plan Steering Committee

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Pierce County

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City of Fife

Bryan Yambe, Deputy Mayor
City of Fife

CC: Chair Chris Karnes, and members of the Planning Commission