



City of Tacoma

Mayor Marilyn Strickland

August 17, 2010

Mr. Bob Drewel
Executive Director
PSRC
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

BY FAX AND MAIL
(Fax to 206-587-4825)

RE: Commitment to the Central Puget Sound Sustainable Communities Consortium

Dear Mr. Drewel:

The City of Tacoma is pleased and delighted to be selected to undertake one of the catalyst projects included in your application to HUD under their regional sustainable communities grant program. The State Growth Management Act, PSRC's VISION 2040, and the City's Comprehensive Plan all work together towards achieving the livability principles of Sustainable Communities. The proposed program in your grant application focuses on the additional resources necessary to develop common agreements on corridor action strategies that will shift the region nearer to implementation of our shared vision.

We fully understand the need to work as part of the Central Puget Sound Sustainable Communities Consortium to cooperatively carry out the program in the grant application and commit to this effort without reservation. Further, the City authorizes PSRC to be the lead applicant and to act in a representative capacity with HUD on behalf of all members of the Consortium and to assume administrative responsibility for ensuring that the Consortium's program is carried out in compliance with all HUD requirements. Finally, we understand that a formal consortium agreement - describing each consortium member's specific activities under the program, including timetables for completion - will be executed no later than 120 days after the effective start date of the grant agreement.

For PSRC to meet the goals for resource protection, climate change, smart growth, and sustainability set forth in VISION 2040, the City of Tacoma must absorb approximately 8% of the central Puget Sound region's population and employment growth. Much of this growth can be accommodated in a revitalized Downtown Tacoma: 60,000 jobs and 70,000 people by 2030. Our catalyst project seeks to facilitate Downtown Tacoma's revitalization by undertaking sub-area planning using a 2010 Washington State law that:

Mr. Bob Drewel
August 17, 2010
Page 2

(1) authorizes area-wide identification of environmental impacts accompanied by a system that provides for proportional, substantive mitigation for adverse environmental impacts; (2) mandates expanded public participation for the area-wide planning and eliminates project-by-project environmental appeals; (3) mandates that the sub-area plan act affirmatively to avoid displacement or fragmentation of existing businesses, residents, and/or cultural groups; and, (4) requires innovative approaches to achieve the State's statutory goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Specifically, our catalyst project will address the procedural and substantive requirements involved in pre-approving 30 million net square feet of new floor space in Downtown Tacoma in such a manner that project-by-project public review and appeals will be foregone.

We intend to demonstrate that this innovative approach can be a useful one with regional and, national applicability. The proposal will advance a more equitable distribution of transit-oriented communities by developing new partnerships between communities that have traditionally been disconnected from development decision making, affordable housing advocates, developers, employers, other governmental agencies and community development organizations. We will open up economic opportunity and confront the environmental justice needs of marginalized/disadvantaged communities before problems become more pronounced.

I can, without hesitation, assure you that the City has the organizational capacity to undertake and complete our part of this local and regional initiative. To date we have committed \$150,000 in direct staff support but expect to leverage additional support from across our entire network of City departments, other public entities, and community volunteers for this groundbreaking regional initiative.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



MARILYN STRICKLAND
Mayor