

cc: Ryan
Peter



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MAR 26 2010

March 24, 2010

Steve Atkinson, Associate Planner
City of Tacoma Community & Economic Development
Long-Range Planning Division
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Shoreline Master Program Update

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

We wish to express our concerns about the Shoreline Master Program update. As operators of a water-dependent business and developers of a marine training and activity center on the East side of the Foss Waterway, the Youth Marine Foundation has a valuable perspective to offer.

We express our strong support for the detailed comments concerning the S-8 Shoreline District submitted by the Port of Tacoma staff on behalf of their Commissioners. The essence of these comments is that the area North of the 11th Street Bridge on the East Foss contains unique and well-established job-producing industrial property and thus deserves special consideration. There is no merit in attempting to create a public walkway parallel to the waterway in this area. Instead, specific safe and feasible public access locations should be encouraged, such as ours, which bears the motto, "helping youth touch the Sound."

We also concur with the principles outlined by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce. Namely, our industries—especially water-dependent and water related uses—should be allowed to expand within the S-8 area as needed, and if non-industrial uses are permitted, any impact mitigation should be their responsibility.

We welcome the City's new Urban Waters facility as our neighbor, and wish to stress that new development needs to be compatible with long-standing neighbors, not vice versa. It would be a shame to create new marine research jobs if it is at the expense of existing industrial jobs. We believe that both can flourish on the East side of the Foss!

Sincerely,

Tom Rogers
President

cc: Eric Anderson, City Manager
Evette Mason, Port of Tacoma
Gary Brackett, Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

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