Dear City Clerk’s Office:

I am forwarding written comments received, along with the response from Real Property Services, pursuant to the attached Public Hearing Notice for the proposed sale of Tacoma Water property to the Puyallup School District No. 3 on the City Council agenda for February 9, 2021.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Greg Muller, Real Estate Officer
Tacoma Public Utilities
253.606.4688

Good morning, Ms. Gailfus.

Thank you for reaching out to me with your questions and concerns. As the seller of this property, Tacoma Water will not be involved in any decisions or review concerning the possible future development of a public school on the property. If you have questions concerning the Puyallup School District’s plans for the property, please contact Brian Devereux, the district’s Facilities Planning Director (phone: 253.841.8772; e-mail: deverebj@puyallup.k12.wa.us). If you have questions or comments about the process for reviewing development proposals for the property, please contact Pierce County which is the jurisdiction that would review any proposed project. The possible sale of this property has been under consideration since 2011. In 2015 two open houses were held in the neighborhood with representatives of Tacoma Water, the Puyallup School District, Pierce County Parks and Recreation, and the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department. The intention to sell the property for a possible future school was identified and discussed at the open houses.

As to your comments about a potential park and a recent development in the 110th Street residential neighborhood, I would again refer you to Pierce County.

The timing of the Public Hearing is wholly coincidental with the current public emergency due to the pandemic. To ensure that the public is able to participate in the Public Hearing and provide comments, the City of Tacoma has enacted rules and procedures to ensure public participation and adherence to all state laws and regulations pertaining to public meetings. I’ve attached a copy of the Public Hearing notice with details on how you may participate and provide comment through on-line, written and phone connections. I will also forward your e-mail to the City Clerk as a written comment for City Council consideration.

I hope the preceding addresses your questions and concerns. Thank you again.
Respectfully,

Greg Muller, Real Estate Officer
Tacoma Public Utilities
253.606.4688

From: EMAIL UPDATE. <rocojama@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Muller, Gregory <GMuller@cityoftacoma.org>
Subject: Land Sale for School on 144 St. South Hil

Mr. Muller:
Please send plans for a school that may be built on our doorstep. We live across the street from the property in question on 143rd. I thought this had already been settled with the residents in the area. We already have a school on 144th that, when open, impedes traffic from cars going in and out of the school, school buses, parking on the street, etc. It is a dangerous situation if anyone from the County or School Board would take a look. There seems to be absolutely no desire to take those things into consideration. For that price a piece of property that would not devalue houses in the neighborhood, nor endanger them, could be bought for a school.

We thought this crazy idea was put to rest. In fact, when I called about it to a County office, I was assured it was not going to happen. AND THEN it has been decided to have this "public hearing" during a pandemic when people are reluctant to mingle with a big crowd. Was that done on purpose?

Does the District intend to run buses by our houses on 143rd? Or block our way in and out of the neighborhood at certain times of the day? What a sad thing to do to a quiet neighborhood. The schools near Sunrise are in perfect places. Find another place like that for schools. Such a detriment to the neighborhood...cars blocking the streets, buses running by our houses, children trying to get to their parent's cars through the maze of slow moving cars, sight impeded. A firetruck or ambulance would have a hard time getting through at certain times of the day if things are the same as they are on 144th in front of the school now there. Will sound proof fences be built along 143rd? And, of course, street lights for the children going to school in the dark in the mornings. That would be a must if we have to have this horrible thing done to our neighborhood. I can guarantee that the school board in Puyallup would NEVER get another vote from around here for schools.

When we bought this place we were told we would never have to worry about the area across the street being sold because it is a watershed area. We didn't get it in writing, more's the pity. We never would have bought here in 1979 if we thought something like this would happen. I doubt others on this street would have either.

Please pass this letter of deep concern to those in charge of this decision. I ask them to rethink this considering ALL things it would do to the neighborhood. One school on this street is more than enough. Has the impact on those living in this area even been considered? Or maybe the people in our neighborhood don't count...except to have their homes taxed beyond reason.

Another catastrophe was allowed to dump cars, motorhomes, etc. on 110th in a residential neighborhood. It's as if those in charge think if it is out of sight of the main traffic it can go anywhere. That dump has already made a terrible impact on a neighborhood. Big trucks with long trailers running back and forth from Meridian to the residential area....where is the thinking and the planning for better living for residents?

Hoping for clearer thinking on this matter. Hoping for all consequences to be considered. A park would be a great idea for the people. How about that? Such a park could be used for education by the school down the block. The environment of our area could be studied by other children in other schools. Entrance to the park for those classes could be close to the school now in the neighborhood. It could be a good thing instead of a bad thing for our neighborhood. Don't do this.
We still have a nice neighborhood in spite of the problems down the road with that school. Don't mess it up worse than it is now.

Thank you.
Janice Gailfus, 12415 144 ST. E. Puyallup, Wa. 98374

JanGee
Notice of Public Hearing

City of Tacoma

January 28, 2021

On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the declaration of surplus and sale of approximately 43 acres of Tacoma Water property, located at the northwest corner of 134th Avenue East and 144th Street East in the Puyallup vicinity of unincorporated Pierce County, to the Puyallup School District No. 3, for the amount of $2,025,000. The hearing will be held during the City Council meeting and will begin upon completion of the regular agenda items, no earlier than 5:15 p.m. For additional details, please see the attached information.

The City Council meeting will not be conducted in-person and will have telephonic and virtual access for the public to attend. The meeting and public hearing can be heard by dialing 253-215-8782 or through Zoom at http://www.zoom.us/j/84834233126, and entering the meeting ID 848 3423 3126 and passcode 349099, when prompted.

Oral comments will be taken at the City Council meeting. Sign up to speak by clicking the 'Raise Hand' button at the bottom of the Zoom window or press *9 on your phone. Those wishing to submit written comments may do so by email to the City Clerk’s Office at cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org or by mail at 733 Market Street, Room 11, Tacoma, WA 98402, by 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Written comments will be compiled, forwarded to the City Council, and posted on the City’s webpage at cityoftacoma.org/writtencomments.

Resolution No. 40734, which set the public hearing date, can be viewed in its entirety on the City’s website at www.cityoftacoma.org/recentlegis by clicking on the link for January 26, 2021, or by requesting a copy from the City Clerk’s Office at 253-591-5505.

For more information, please contact Greg Muller, Real Estate Officer, at GMuller@cityoftacoma.org or 253-502-8256.

Doris Sorum
City Clerk

The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 253-591-5505, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting time. TTY or speech-to-speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.
Notice of Public Hearing  
*Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at approximately 5:15 PM*

Proposed sale of approximately 43 acres of property located at the northwest corner of 144th Street East and 134th Avenue East in unincorporated Pierce County, Washington.

A public hearing has been scheduled regarding a proposed sale to the Puyallup School District No. 3 of property owned by the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Water Division (dba Tacoma Water) in the amount of $2,025,000. This property, identified as Pierce County Assessor tax parcel number 0419141088, has been declared surplus to the needs of the City of Tacoma/Tacoma Water and is no longer required for operational purposes.

For additional information, please contact Greg Muller, Real Estate Officer, via phone at (253) 606-4688 or via e-mail at gmuller@cityoftacoma.org.

**Tacoma Water Surplus Property**
To: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

Re: Public Comments for Resolution No. 40734

I realize by the time these resolutions reach the public for comment, they are essentially already decided; however, I am requesting that you please do not approve No. 40734.

Just as Tacoma has adopted the "native land acknowledgement" to preface each meeting, if Tacoma actually believes and respects such a statement then here is the way to prove it: this land is our responsibility to safeguard, not sell.

Our climate is at a critical point which Tacoma leaders "say" they recognize, but are not truly taking significant action to advance upon. One of the simplest solutions is by preserving natural land -- green space... especially forested areas as a means of absorbing CO2. Wooded acreage will improve the air, soil and groundwater quality in present day as well as protect biodiversity for the future.

Such land should never be considered "surplus" because there is no immediate/economic use. Tacoma should apply the foresight to conserve these 43 acres, needing no maintenance at all. This undeveloped land will be pricelessly precious in coming years and worth far, far more in other value than the paltry two million dollars being sought now.

Please do not sell this land to Puyallup nor to anyone. Please retain it as city land, left to be natural and as Tacoma’s contribution for achieving the nation’s climate emission targets.

Thank you ~ Heidi Stephens
Resident of Tacoma
Tacoma needs to do what Seattle and Burien have done, and mandate that grocery chains, or any other large essential business, start giving their employees hazard pay. These companies have made huge profits from their workers extra labor, and increased risk, they need to pay it back to them.

Jay Oak-Schiller, the South End