

Urban Waters

a marine research center



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June 2008

The Urban Waters Board was formed to support the creation of a world-class marine research center focused on developing solutions to the problems facing urban bay communities. The Board's initial efforts have resulted in:

- The establishment of an endowed chair to build and lead a marine research program.
- A partnership formed by the University of Washington Tacoma, the Puget Sound Partnership and the City of Tacoma. These three entities will share a new office and laboratory research facility, the Center for Urban Waters.

The Port of Tacoma Endowed Chair & Research Priorities

Through the efforts of the Urban Waters Board, an endowed chair has been established to build and lead a marine research program centered at the University of Washington Tacoma, using laboratory facilities at the Center for Urban Waters, as well as other university facilities.

Four contributors funded the Port of Tacoma Endowed Chair: The Port of Tacoma contributed \$1 million, the City of Tacoma and SSA Marine contributed \$500,000 each, and the University of Washington Foundation matched the contributions with \$1 million.

Dr. Joel E. Baker, a leading researcher of water pollution in marine environments, was selected by the UW Tacoma as the first holder of the Port of Tacoma Chair. The initial focus of the endowed chair is to conduct research to protect the region's investments in environmental remediation.

A Scientific Advisory Group, a comprehensive team of environmental and human health scientists led by Dr. Arthur Nowell of the University of Washington and Dr. Yonathon Zohar of the University of Maryland, identified three areas of research to be explored: ballast water and invasive species, urban water runoff and marine biotechnology, and aquaculture.

The Center for Urban Waters Facility

To date, the property has been purchased and design of the Center for Urban Waters is under way. For more information on the facility, which will be located on the east side of Tacoma's Foss Waterway, visit the City's Web site at www.cityoftacoma.org/urbanwaters.

Commencement Bay provides a unique real-life laboratory for a number of water quality issues affecting urban centers. Local and regional marine research will capitalize on our innate fascination with water by finding ways we can live, work and play near vibrant aquatic and marine life in our bays and estuaries—and share the joy of discovery with generations to come.

The Vision Progresses

- 2002:** Potential partners held workshop to outline vision for center
- 2003:** Russell Family Foundation contributed \$70,000 for funding feasibility study; Board and scientific advisory group established
- 2004:** Case statement prepared with facility needs and budget; Collins Group conducted funding feasibility study; scientific advisory group outlined first three research priorities; executive director hired; Port of Tacoma contributed \$1 million, matched by \$500,000 from the UW Foundation, to endow a research chair at the Tacoma campus
- 2005:** SSA Marine and City of Tacoma each contributed \$500,000, matched by \$500,000 from the UW Foundation, to round out the Tacoma campus research chair endowment
- 2005-07:** Contributions from Sequoia Foundation, Russell Investment Group, Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation and the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation supported Urban Waters efforts
- 2007:** City purchased building site on east side of Foss Waterway; UW Tacoma hired Port of Tacoma Endowed Chair; City Council approved agreement with nonprofit facilitator to build the Center for Urban Waters
- 2008:** Groundbreaking for Center for Urban Waters projected for Fall 2008
- 2009:** Completion of Center for Urban Waters projected for Fourth Quarter 2009



The Urban Waters Board & Vision for the Future

The Urban Waters Board, formed in 2003, represents a partnership of community, governmental, industry and educational leaders who have worked to create the vision for Urban Waters and to raise funding to support that vision.

The effort to establish the research center has been supported by contributions from The Sequoia Foundation, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Russell Investment Group, Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation, Russell Family Foundation, and gifts from Urban Waters Board members.

The Board's mission includes working collaboratively with local agencies and organizations on matters of public policy and educational outreach, and supporting community efforts to recruit firms engaged in marine-science related activities such as marine research, marine architecture/engineering and related manufacturing.

The vision for the future of the Urban Waters Board is to attract additional marine research in support of the original mission, and to build a growing community of world-class marine researchers developing solutions to the problems of urban bay communities.



Urban Waters Contributors

Sequoia Foundation
Russell Family Foundation
Russell Investment Group
Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
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