



Commission Briefing
Resolution 2017-11-PT

Regarding Fossil Fuel Export
Facility Development on
Port-Owned Property



Commission President requested Port staff evaluate a process to affirm the Commission's desire to acknowledge that the Commission doesn't support certain development activities for its Port-owned land.

“The Port of Tacoma chooses not to develop new facilities for the international export of bulk fossil fuels on Port-owned property.”

Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements (CSHI)



- In 1918 the City of Tacoma voted to create a port district.
- In April of 1919 the Port of Tacoma Commission adopted the first CSHI.
- While there have been periodic amendments to the geographic limits and development area, the current CSHI text has not been amended since April 2012.
- Development within the port district is guided by the CSHI, as such, any future land development opportunity would be subject to this proposed new language.

Summary of Findings



- The change to the CHSI would apply only to Port-owned property.
- The transportation industry is highly reliant on fossil fuels.
- We look forward to a future where renewable energy will take a larger role in supporting the movement of commerce.
- Luckily, renewable forms of energy—while not universally available for all applications at this time—are becoming more available, and more affordable.
- The Port embraces its duty to protect Port-owned property located in the City of Tacoma and dedicated for industrial use providing economic vitality.

Next Steps



Subject to Commission direction, Staff will:

1. Complete State Environmental Policy Act Review (SEPA). This process will include public notice, public comment period, and a reconsideration period.
2. Provide the public notice and hearing opportunity as required for amendments to the Comprehensive Harbor Scheme of Improvements (CHSI).
3. Bring a Resolution for adoption of an amended CHSI for Commission consideration at the December 21, 2017 Port of Tacoma Commission meeting.