

PROJECT ACTION MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 6B
Meeting Date: 7/15/25

DATE: July 7, 2025
TO: Port of Tacoma Commission
FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Jason Jordan, Sr. Director Environmental & Planning Services
Project Manager: Norman Gilbert, Engineering Project Manager II
SUBJECT: ECHO Design Project Authorization

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request project authorization in the amount of \$1,250,000 for a total authorized amount of \$2,355,000, for work associated with the East Commencement Habitat Opportunity (ECHO) Design Project Authorization, Project ID #101631.01.

Strategic Plan Initiative: EL-4

B. SYNOPSIS

The exposed shoreline along a portion of Marine View Drive, which includes the Dick Gilmur Boat Launch, is experiencing significant erosion due to heavy wave action. Construction of an intertidal habitat feature along this shoreline will dissipate the wave action and slow the erosion of the shoreline. In addition, this construction is intended to benefit from beneficial reuse dredge sediment from the berth deepening projects at Husky and/or Washington United Terminals and the Tribal Cutback adjacent to East Blair 1 (EB1), work with the US Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) placement of beneficial reuse dredge sediments at the adjacent Department of Natural Resource (DNR) leased area, and will generate habitat credit that can be used to mitigate other Port projects or potentially added to the Port's mitigation credit portfolio.

C. BACKGROUND

The area waterward of Port parcel 83 was used to raft and store logs inside of log booms for much of the 20th century. These rafted logs and log boom provided some protection to the shoreline. The practice also contributed to the presence of wood waste on the seafloor in certain areas of the DNR leasehold area. The Dick Gilmur Boat Launch was constructed in 2011 to provide an upland parking area and water access for hand launched boats. The area around the boat launch was designed to be a sacrificial shoreline that would slowly erode and need periodic replenishing over time. However, this shoreline has experienced greater than expected erosion since the log rafting stopped and the log booms were removed in 2015/16.

Repairs of the shoreline occurred in 2016, 2017, 2021 and most recently in December of 2024. It is expected that additional repairs will be required until the intertidal habitat project is completed.

The nearshore habitat project is intended to provide for energy dissipation of waves to slow the erosion of the shoreline to the originally predicted rates. The Port's design will integrate with the Corps design for beneficial use of dredge material on DNR land being conducted under the navigation channel deepening project. The two projects will create a set of barrier islands and a berm area that protects Marine View Drive and creates much needed intertidal habitat. This will also cover wood waste areas on the DNR leasehold.

D. PROJECT DETAILS

The scope of the project is to design and construct a nearshore intertidal habitat site that beneficially reuses dredged sediment and provides shoreline protection along parcel 83. This project will also integrate with the Corps' proposed placement of dredge material at the adjacent DNR leased area.

Scope of Work for This Request:

- Advance design to 100% bid ready level
- Continued Coastal modeling
- Project management

Schedule:

- Execute Professional Service Agreement Amendment in July 2025
- Complete 100% bid design documents in June 2026

E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Estimated Cost of Project

The total project design cost is estimated at \$2,355,000. Construction costs will be estimated during completion of 30% design efforts.

Estimated Cost for This Request

The total estimated cost of this request is \$1,250,000. If the cost of this estimate is anticipated to exceed the authorized amount, additional Commission authorization will be requested.

Estimated Sales Tax

The total estimated sales tax to be paid to local and state governments for this project is unknown.

Cost Details

Item	This Request	Total Previous Requests	Total Request	Total Project Cost	Cost to Date	Remaining Cost
DESIGN	\$1,250,000	\$1,105,00	\$2,355,000	\$2,355,000	\$830,724	\$1,524,276
CONSTRUCTION	\$0	\$0	\$0	TBD	\$0	TBD
TOTAL	\$1,250,000	\$1,105,000	\$2,355,000	TBD	\$830,724	TBD

Source of Funds

The 2025-2029 Capital Investment Plan (CIP) allocates \$6,345,000 for this project. The budget will be revised as necessary to accommodate changes in the scope of work and to reflect more accurate cost estimates as the design phase of the project advances.

Financial Impact

Project costs will not be subject to depreciation, as the project will be classified as a land asset upon completion.

F. ECONOMIC INVESTMENT/JOB CREATION

No new jobs will be directly created. This project will preserve public access via the Dick Gilmur Boat Launch and create new intertidal marine habitat. Any advance mitigation credits derived from this site can be used to support future Port maintenance and growth.

G. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Alternative 1) Do nothing. Continue to allow the shoreline to erode requiring repeated repairs to protect Marine View Drive.

Alternative 2) This request.

Alternative 2 is the recommended course.

H. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/REVIEW

Permitting: This effort will require environmental review under SEPA and a full suite of environmental permits including Corps Section 404 and Section 10 permits, Ecology Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Hydraulic Project Approval and City of Tacoma Shoreline and Critical Areas permits. It will include an evaluation of potential Endangered Species Act habitat credits (Discounted Service Acre Years) from National Marine Fisheries Service/US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Remediation: N/A

Stormwater: N/A

Air Quality: N/A

I. PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

Date	Action	Amount
March 7, 2023	Managing Members Deepening Program Briefing	\$0
June 26, 2023	Executive Authorization - Design	\$300,000
September 6, 2023	Commission Authorization - Design	\$400,000
January 13, 2025	Commission Authorization - Design	\$405,000
TOTAL		\$1,105,000

J. NEXT STEPS

Complete design and return to Commission for construction authorization.