

Item #: 10C

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SEPA Policy Update

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Port of Tacoma Regular Commission Meeting

June 20, 2023



- Established in the 1970s.
- Designed to consider environmental impacts in agency decision-making process.
- Port of Tacoma is Lead Agency for most projects on Port land.
- SEPA is not a permit. It provides permission to apply for permits.
- Can be used to impose mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate impacts.

- The Port adopted its original SEPA policy via Commission Resolution in 1984. It has since been updated 3 times previously in 2010, 2011, 2016 and this update will be the fourth update.
- This new Resolution is a new version vs an update to the previous. Changes of significance are highlighted here in this review.

- Public Notification Process
 - The process has been updated to reflect the current usage of the SEPA electronic email notification via the interested parties signup found on the Port of Tacoma Website: [State Environmental Policy Act | Port of Tacoma](#)
 - Notification by USPS for selected areas by tax parcel address of record within the action item designated area.

- Appeal Process
 - Removing for clarification and simplified based on the LUPA under the City of Tacoma Land Use Act.
 - We cannot define a specific judicial appeal period for all Port SEPA actions because unless the notice of action is used to specifically trigger it, the time limitation runs based on the underlying governmental action. For a land use decision, such as a project or permit, our SEPA would be appealable together with the City's land use decision to superior court under LUPA, but our SEPA would not be part of any City administrative appeal of the land use decision.

- Tenant SEPA Assistance
 - The optional fee for SEPA process filing to tenants is being removed.
 - This option has never been utilized.

- Commission will conduct a public hearing, consider comments and consider adoption of the amended SEPA Resolution No. 2016-06-PT.
- Attachment: Proposed Resolution 2016-06-PT (changes highlighted in yellow)



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