

PROJECT BRIEFING MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 10A
Meeting Date: 12/17/24

DATE: December 9, 2024
TO: Port of Tacoma Commission
FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Jason Jordan, Sr. Director, Environmental and Planning
Project Manager: Deirdre Wilson, AICP, Sr. Manager, Planning
SUBJECT: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Briefing

A. BRIEFING PURPOSE

This briefing is to provide the Commission with information about the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Strategic Plan Initiative: OS-2, Protect the public's investment by maintaining existing assets and positioning them for future growth.

B. SYNOPSIS

The Port of Tacoma Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a high-level overview of hazards, risk, and mitigation measures to protect life and property. Examples of mitigation: Property acquisition and structure elevation, flood control, soil stabilization, infrastructure and structural retrofits, emergency generators.

An adopted Plan is an eligibility requirement for many of the FEMA hazard grant programs. Such programs include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC).

Port of Tacoma Commission adopted the Port's original Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2008. The Port's current Plan was last updated in 2020. Updates are required by FEMA every 5 years.

C. BACKGROUND

The Port of Tacoma Hazard Mitigation Plan is combined with the plans of about 76 other jurisdictions within Pierce County to form the Homeland Security Region 5, Hazard Mitigation Plan.

New areas of consideration to meet FEMA requirements include wildfires, equity, and climate adaptation. FEMA will approve the updated Port Plan which will then need formal adoption by the Port Commission.

In future adoption of a resolution, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to reducing risks from natural, human-made, and technological hazards.

D. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Port of Tacoma Hazard Mitigation Plan and future resolution make no specific commitment of Port funds. Implementation of mitigation actions would be subject to separate authorization(s) by the Port of Tacoma Commission and/or the Managing Members of The Northwest Seaport Alliance.

Adoption of the Port's Plan by the Commission ensures the Ports' continued eligibility for FEMA grant funding for hazards and mitigation noted in the Plan.

E. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST

Hazard Mitigation FAQs

F. NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to engage as facilitated by Pierce County Emergency Management, attending regular meetings and submitting chapter updates on schedule.

Information about the update will be made available on the port website.

Staff will return in Q3 2025 to present the draft Port of Tacoma Hazard Mitigation Plan and a subsequent request for the Commission to approve the plan by Resolution.