

Motion 21-07

I hereby move that the following motion be approved:

21-07. That the Chair be authorized to send a letter on behalf of the Board to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee concerning the proposed Tideflats non-interim ordinance as set forth in the materials on file with the Clerk.



TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

3628 South 35th Street

Tacoma, Washington 98409-3192

June 30, 2021

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the City Council:

As the Tideflats non-interim ordinance process moves to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) committee, we appreciate the opportunity to provide information regarding specific aspects of the Planning Commission's recommended ordinance. Our comments are not intended to relay a position on the entirety of the Planning Commission's recommendations, but rather to convey information on specific areas that could impact Tacoma Public Utilities' (TPU) policies and strategic directives.

TPU is proud to be able to provide our customers with clean, 98% carbon-free power. The value of this asset to the City of Tacoma and all of Tacoma Power's customers is not reflected in the proposed ordinance. Wind and solar are referenced as being considered renewable fuels in the proposed ordinance, but our clean hydropower is not referenced. This oversight should be corrected. For consistency and efficiency we recommend that the ordinance include a clearer definition of renewable fuels. A clear renewable fuels definition will aid in the development of a more certain and predictable permitting process for renewable fuels projects in the PMI and M2 zones. TPU has expertise in this area that we can provide to assist in developing the definition, especially in the area of electrofuels.

The PUB has approved strategic directives addressing environmental leadership, decarbonization and economic development. In summary, the purposes of these directives are:

Environmental Leadership - TPU is committed to being good stewards of the region's natural resources, and is a leader in the preservation, protection, and restoration of those resources while maintaining its excellent delivery of services and supporting the growth of our local economy.

Decarbonization – TPU seeks to be a leader in decarbonization. TPU believes that decarbonization is a vital tool to address the public emergency of climate change, and will help to minimize the harm to current and future generations.

Economic Development – TPU supplies critical resources to communities it serves, and provides the foundation for building a strong and resilient economy.

In addition to our strategic directives, the PUB joined the Tacoma City Council in supporting Council Resolution 40509, which declares a climate emergency in Tacoma, and prioritizes strategies and actions for improving environmental quality.

A climate emergency exists and action must also be taken to protect our limited industrial lands, and support the development of industries that will provide good paying jobs, promote a resilient and sustainable economy, and preserve our environment. To that end, in November 2020, the PUB and the Tacoma City Council approved a Tacoma Power pilot tariff rate focused on



promoting the development of “electrofuel” production which consists of clean, non-emitting fuels aimed at decarbonizing transportation and energy generation and storage. This tariff reflects TPU’s commitment to leveraging our power, water, and rail resources to make our City a leader in attracting clean, green industries.

In conclusion, we recognize and appreciate the hard work of the Planning Commission and City staff in developing the proposed non-interim Tideflats regulations, and your efforts to make this an inclusive process. The PUB supports the principles of achieving a resilient and sustainable economy that ensures equity and also preserves, protects and restores our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Flint", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bryan Flint
Chair, Public Utility Board