



Port of Tacoma position

The Port is seeking \$3.8 million in Remedial Action Grant funding to fund several remediation projects under agreed orders initiated by the state.

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(Printed December 2019)

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The Issue

The Port of Tacoma has a long history of partnering with stakeholders to clean up and improve the environmental conditions of Commencement Bay. Since 1987, the Port has managed \$297 million worth of environmental investments.

An important tool in this effort are Remedial Action Grants (RAGs) funded by Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) accounts used to clean up contaminated properties. The accounts are funded by a dedicated tax on toxics in the state.

The three Port of Tacoma remediation projects included in the governor's proposed supplemental capital budget are intended to continue this commitment. These projects prioritize and fund clean-up actions on port property likely to have the greatest environmental benefit and benefit to Southern Resident orcas.

PROJECT	FUNDING REQUESTED
Earley Business Center (EBC)	\$1.5 million
721 Alexander Avenue	\$1.3 million
Portac	\$1.0 million
TOTAL	\$3.8 million

Earley Business Center (EBC)

The EBC site contaminated with PCBs and PAHs associated with ship building that occurred on the property during World War II. The shoreline around the EBC site is eroding into the Blair Waterway, threatening to expose contamination to the waters of the Blair and Commencement Bay. PCBs are very persistent in the environment taking a long time to degrade, bio-accumulate in fish and whales (thereby posing a threat to orca recovery) and are a known carcinogen. The shoreline erosion also poses a threat to the long-term viability of the Earley Business Center — home of manufacturing companies like Pacific Steel, Motive Power Marine, and Safe Boats — as portions of the property are washed away. The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the project are complete and the \$1.5 million requested by the port would pay for design and construction to prevent further shoreline erosion.

721 Alexander Avenue

This former oil storage site, serving the shipyards previously located at EBC, is contaminated with benzene and other petroleum products. Weathered petroleum products are migrating to both the Hylebos and Blair waterways, both of which are located at the end of salmon bearing streams (the Hylebos and Wapato creeks, respectively). The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the project are complete and the \$1.3 million requested by the Port would pay for design and construction of the proposed remedy and the first year of treatment. This likely would entail the use of bioremediation.

Portac

Slag from the former ASARCO smelter in Tacoma was placed on the Portac site to serve as a pad for a log yard during the 1960s. Wood waste, unfortunately, leached arsenic from the slag to contaminate the site. That arsenic is making its way to Wapato Creek, a salmon bearing stream that the Port, City of Fife, and Puyallup Tribe is seeking to restore. Arsenic is a known carcinogen and is bio-accumulative in salmon and whales. While current site conditions allow for limited use (such as parking vehicles on it), meaningful redevelopment of the site would require remediation. This site could be incorporated into a larger future breakbulk facility should it developed. The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the project are complete and the \$1 million requested by the port would pay for design and construction of phase one of the project. This would likely entail replumbing the site to redirect the contamination to a new treatment unit.

Port of Tacoma Remediation Projects

