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January 30, 2023

Jefferson County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

RE: ARPA/Climate Change Resilience, Flood Protection & Waterwalk Project

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to request funding for the feasibility/preliminary design phase work on the Port Townsend Climate Change Resilience, Flood Protection & Waterwalk Project, Phase I. This project would protect Port Townsend's Flats District, including the Port Townsend Boatyard, SR 20/Sims Way, the Haines Place Park & Ride and many businesses from rising seas by constructing approximately 4,500 feet of flood protection from approximately the Leafwing Sculpture on the Larry Scott Trail to high ground in proximity to the Tides Inn. If feasible, future phases would seek to protect downtown Port Townsend, including Point Hudson.



Exhibit showing approximate project limits

Two of the highest tides recorded occurred in 2022 with the December 27, 2022 King Tide event breaking the records. A portion of the Skookum Building (home of Goldstar Marine/ACI) had 12” of water in it. Roadways, storm drains and other infrastructure was under water during this event; ramps to the marina’s docks reversed direction and required an uphill walk to go down to the docks. This event exacerbated prior damage along the Boat Haven Marina’s bulkhead; the Port has been working with FEMA to address damage from that event.

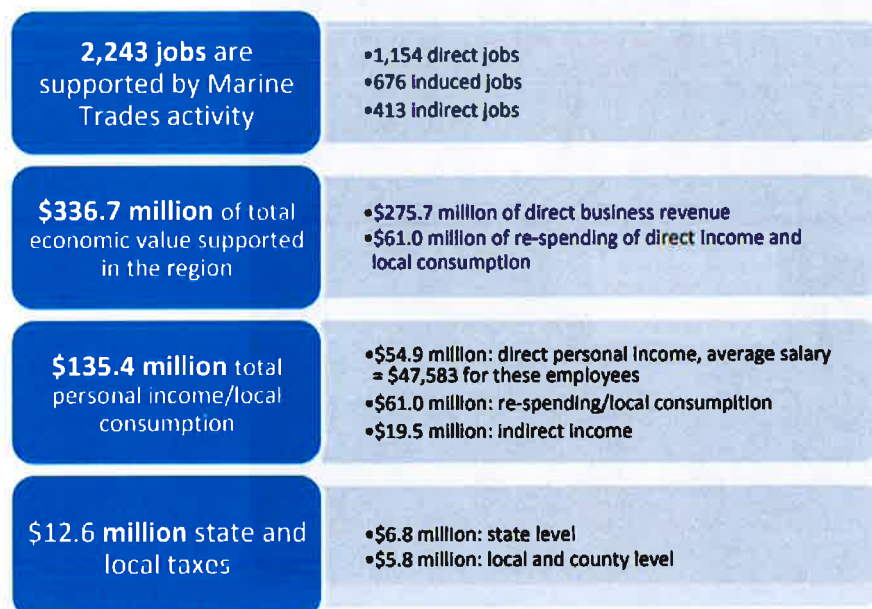


Photos of the December 27, 2022 King Tide at Boat Haven

As the Port continues with laser focus to repair, maintain and improve the Port Townsend Boatyard for future generations to use, enjoy and prosper, the threat of recurring flooding is an existential threat. With rising sea levels, climate modeling indicates that we all need to be prepared for more King Tide events. Based on this modeling, the recently constructed north breakwater at Point Hudson is built to elevation 16, replacing a structure that was built at elevation 13. Phase I of this project is intended to consider alternatives, determine feasibility, preliminary alignment, design elevation, preliminary cost estimates right-of-way constraints and probable permitting pathways.

The marine trades are a vital part of Jefferson County’s economy and that activity, along with the working waterfront culture, is centered in the Port Townsend Boatyard. Below is a summary of the economic impact of the marine trades sector from the 2018 PTMTA study performed by Dr. martin & Associates (currently being updated with 2022 data).

2017 Economic Impacts of the Maritime Trades - Summary of Results



*Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding

While not the primary objective of this project, completion of a significant portion of the City's planned Waterwalk is a huge benefit to the community. Completion of the Waterwalk is consistent with the City's Urban Waterfront Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Management Plan. A similar project, combining flood protection and a pedestrian walkway, was completed by the City of Mount Vernon and won the APWA project of the year award in 2020.



Photos of Mount Vernon's flood protection structure/walkway along the Skagit River.



City of Port Townsend's Urban Waterfront Plan, Page 87, visualization of Boat Haven's new Waterwalk (1990)

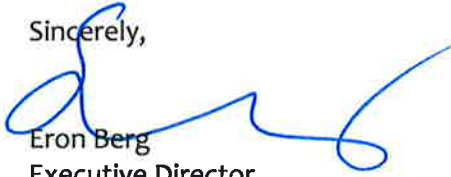
We hope to substantially complete the feasibility stage for \$200,000. The Port is asking for \$100,000 in ARPA funding from the County and will commit the other \$100,000 from Port funds. As we look to an uncertain future, it is difficult to imagine a more critical project than one that will protect the working waterfront.

The City of Port Townsend is a partner in this project and recently completed the Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment (October 2022). Separately, the city is pursuing funding to perform additional study of rising sea

mitigation for critical infrastructure which will also inform this work. Attached is a letter from Acting City Manager Steve King supporting this request.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information about this request, please ask!

Sincerely,



Eron Berg
Executive Director

cc: Mark McCauley, County Administrator

January 30, 2023

Jefferson County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

RE: Letter of Support for the Port of Port Townsend's ARPA/Climate Change Resilience, Flood Protection & Waterwalk Project

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for the subject project. The City appreciates the Port of Port Townsend advancing the topic of sea level rise protection in the Boat Haven area. As illustrated in the Port's proposal, addressing sea level rise in this area requires a comprehensive approach which results in the added benefit of sea level rise solutions providing protection to the east of the Port as well as properties surrounding Kah Tail Lagoon.

City plans have long envisioned the Waterwalk connection between the Larry Scott Trail and east through Downtown. Merging sea level rise protection with the Waterwalk vision, provides the first real opportunity to pursue funding for this scale of project. The development of feasibility plan is the first step to leveraging State and Federal funding sources for this project. The City currently is requesting \$250,000 in funding from the State to initiate a similar feasibility study for Downtown. This PIF request builds upon the recent Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment completed in 2022. The risk assessment served as a vulnerability assessment for existing infrastructure and illustrated that the assets along the southeasterly shoreline of Port Townsend is currently at risk of inundation due to the combined effects of King Tide events, storm surge, and wave runup. The study was validated with the recent King Tide events. Should the City receive this State funding, the Port's PIF proposal will provide additional leverage benefiting the City and Port. Furthermore, the Port's PIF proposal provides the opportunity to study feasibility in the level of detail needed to protect and ultimately enhance the economic value of the boatyard.

In summary, the City is requesting consideration of the Port's proposal for funding to move the ball forward in protecting the economic value of the boatyard and surrounding properties as well as further the plan of connecting the Larry Scott Trail to Downtown with the long envisioned Waterwalk. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve King".

Steve King
Acting City Manager

cc: Mark McCauley, County Administrator



