Port of Tacoma – PFAS Preliminary Actions

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May 2, 2024

Port of Tacoma
People. Partnership. Performance.

Environmental Leadership: What we do

Port of Tacoma

Protect and enhance the environment of Commencement Bay and the Puyallup River by continuing to clean up contaminated land, improve habitat and water quality, and minimize air emissions from Port operations.

STRATEGIES

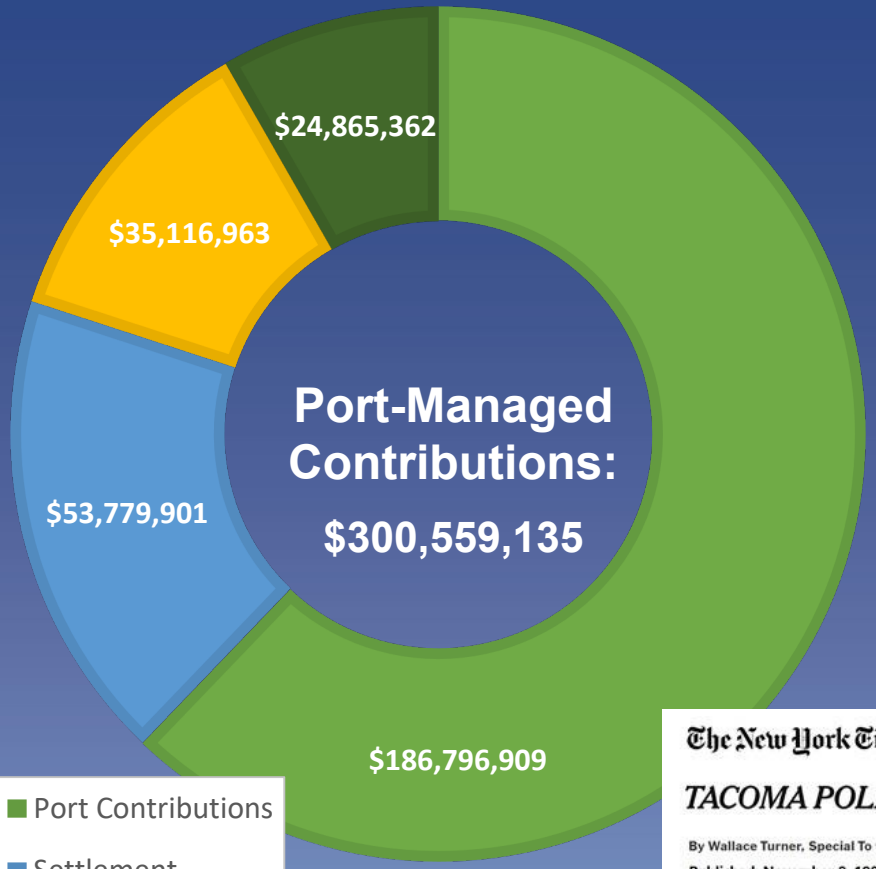
EL-1 Remediate contaminated Port properties in a manner that ensures protection of human health and the environment while enabling economic development.

EL-2 Reduce the air and climate pollution generated by Port and tenant activities.

EL-3 Invest in projects that improve the quality of stormwater runoff from Port properties, embody best practices and empower our tenants to comply with complex permits.

EL-4 Create wetland opportunities and improve fish habitat independent of regulatory obligation.

Port's 25-year Commitment to Commencement Bay (1987 thru 2018)



The New York Times

TACOMA POLLUTION ON '10 WORST' LIST

By Wallace Turner, Special To the New York Times
Published: November 8, 1981

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 5--
The Federal Environmental Protection Agency's recent listing of Tacoma's Commencement Bay as one of the 10 worst toxic waste sites in the country was greeted with surprise here. People were aware, however, that scientists had discovered liver cancer and other diseases in bottom fish in the bay, and the public health authorities had cautioned against eating the fish.

Taylor Way Alexander Fill Area Site

First Formal Ecology cleanup site in Tideflats to require PFAs testing

- Large industrial cleanup site with historical landfills
- Sampled groundwater in primary landfill source area and sentinel wells
- All concentrations below industrial MTCA Method C industrial; some above Method B screening levels
- Final cleanup levels not established for site

Property Due Diligence

Port of Tacoma

Former environmental lab

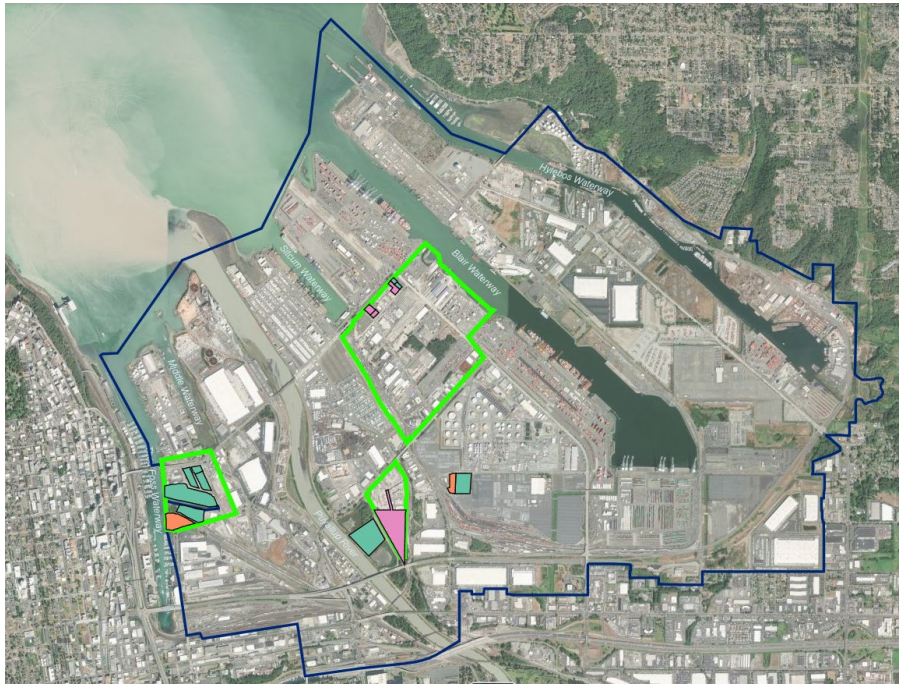
- Policy to test for PFAs on all sites considered for acquisition
- Former lab not on Ecology's Cleanup Site list
- Sampled for the kitchen sink – including PFAs
- PFOA, PFBS, PFOS exceed preliminary groundwater screening levels (Department of Health State Action Levels) published in Ecology's July 2023 guidance
- No established cleanup levels for site; SALs to be replaced with EPA's newly published MCLs

EPA Brownfield Grant – City Fire Station

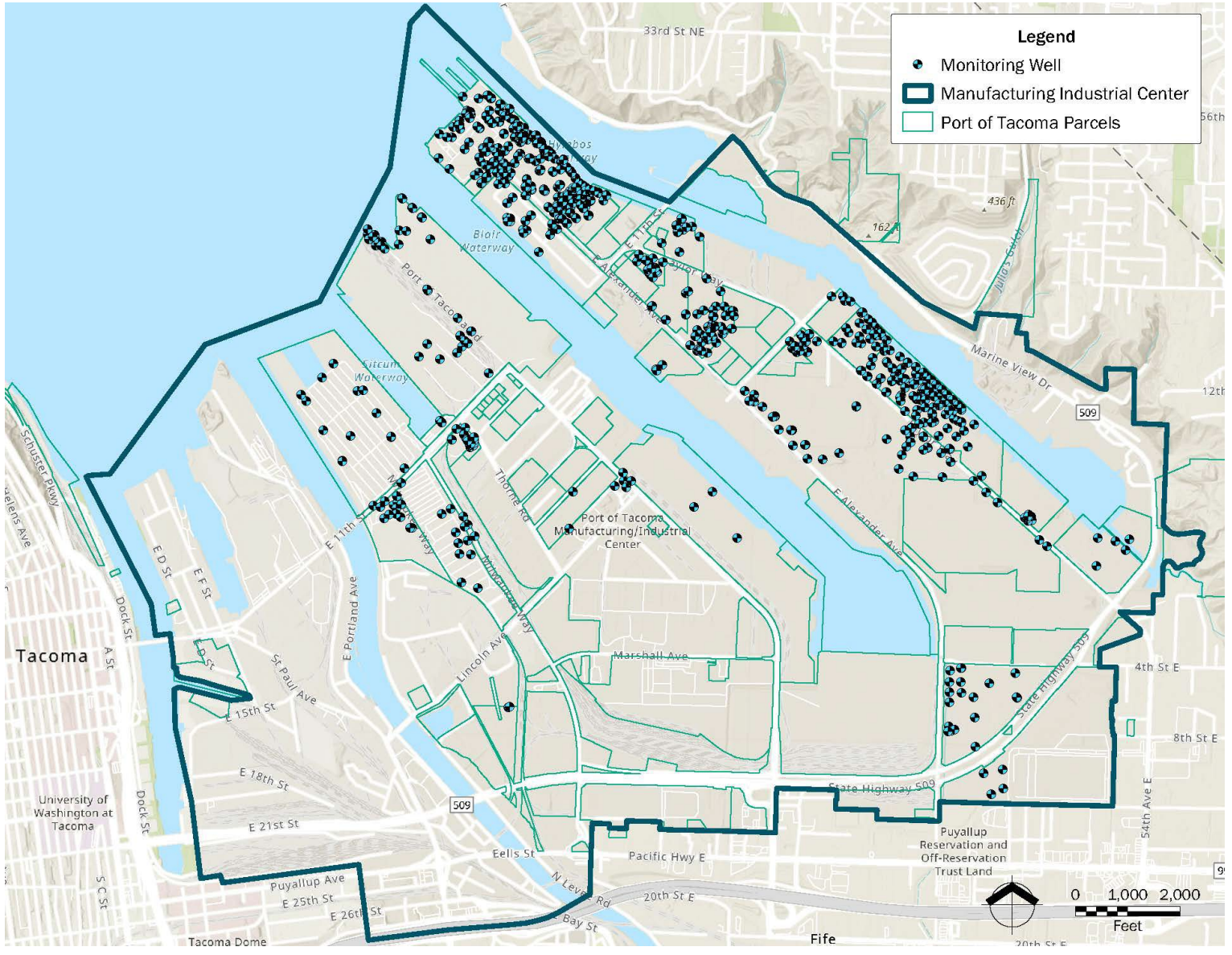
- Parcel 78/Puget Sound Truck Lines
- City of Tacoma Fire Training Center

Potential Candidate Projects

- Three projects in the Central Peninsula priority area
- Two projects in and adjacent to the Marc Avenue priority area
- Four projects in the Wheeler Osgood priority area
- Two projects outside priority areas



Ecology Areawide Groundwater Grant



Tacoma Tideflats Groundwater Study

- Evaluate widespread groundwater contamination from historical industrial activities
- Focusing on metals and PFAS
- Develop 3-D geologic model
- Evaluate water use to support risk pathway analysis
- Evaluate general tidal influence to clarify groundwater to surface water interactions
- Area wide groundwater sampling and analysis