



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, Planning and Development Services  
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Renaming the Rhone Poulenc salt marsh, at 1747 Port of Tacoma Road, to q<sup>w</sup>iq<sup>w</sup>əlut  
**DATE:** August 12, 2019

**SUMMARY:**

A resolution renaming the property currently known as the Rhone Poulenc salt marsh, located at 1747 Port of Tacoma Road, to “q<sup>w</sup>iq<sup>w</sup>əlut,” a Twulshootseed word meaning “Little Marsh,” per the Landmarks Preservation Commission’s recommendation.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.

**BACKGROUND:**

350 Tacoma, in consultation with the Puyallup Tribe and the City of Tacoma Environmental Services, is requesting to rename the Rhone Poulenc salt marsh, located at 1747 Port of Tacoma Road, to q<sup>w</sup>iq<sup>w</sup>əlut. This is a Twulshootseed name that translates to “little marsh.” The name change would reflect the ecological and cultural history of the site. The Twulshootseed name was suggested by the Puyallup Language Program. Over the last year, outreach about the name change was conducted during restoration/reclaiming events led by 350 Tacoma and Earth Corps, with participation from the City of Tacoma. The current name, Rhone Poulenc, comes from a French pharmaceutical company, which no longer operates at this site. After the name change, the intention is to work with the Puyallup Tribe on interpretive signage.

On April 24, 2019, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to schedule the request for public hearing, and on May 23, 2019, the Commission held its hearing. The comment period remained open for 30 days. On July 10, 2019, the Commission voted to recommend to the City Council approval of the name change. On August 7, 2019, the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee recommended adoption of the name change.

This name change was reviewed under the 2010 Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.

**ISSUE:**

The naming request is intended to recognize the Puyallup Tribe’s current and historical presence in the area, reflect the area’s ecological history, and demonstrate the City’s ongoing commitment to strengthening the relationship between the Puyallup Tribe and the City.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The marsh could retain its current name.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Landmarks Preservation Commission recommends the City Council rename the Rhone Poulenc salt marsh, located at 1747 Port of Tacoma Road, to q<sup>w</sup>iq<sup>w</sup>əlut, per the Council Policy on Place Names and Name Changes. Staff concurs with this recommendation.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Limited fiscal impacts are anticipated, and would include the costs associated with the changing of signs and updating GIS maps and data layers. No addresses are impacted.