



CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Chris Beale and Council Assistant Lynda Foster
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Box fan filter program expansion to protect Tacoma residents from wildfire smoke**
DATE: August 5, 2021

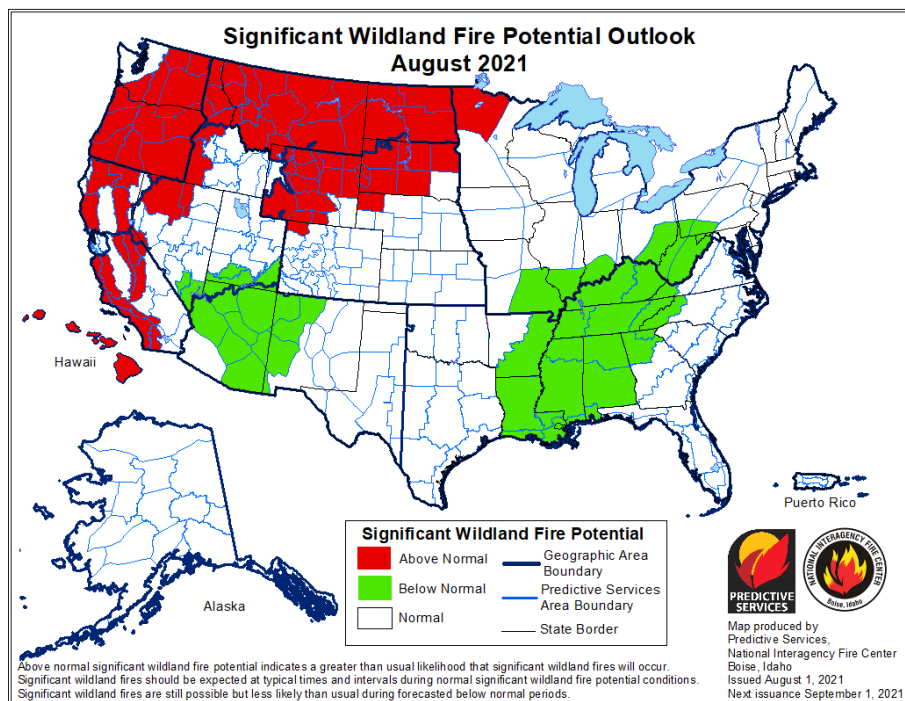
I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

This legislation will provide funds to address the harsh impacts of wildfire smoke on Tacoma residents' health. Wildfire smoke contains many pollutants, including PM 2.5 or fine particulate matter. PM 2.5 is linked with health effects and most harmful to children, pregnant women, and people with chronic disease, like diabetes, heart and lung disease. Smoking and obesity are also risk factors.

Approximately 17,000 Tacoma households have a family member with a chronic illness that makes them especially vulnerable to wildfire smoke. Some of these households may have filtration systems or the resources to purchase one.

The potential for wildfires is above normal this year. See the map from the National Interagency Fire Center:



With funding from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) will distribute 600 box fan filters to seniors in Pierce County with heart or lung disease, or a history of COVID-19, during the 2021 wildfire season through Community of Focus partners. South Tacoma and East Tacoma are the two Communities of Focus within the City of Tacoma and each of their communities will receive 100 box fan filters. The intent of this legislation is to expand the program to more households in need in the City of Tacoma.

Council Contingency Fund Request:

Box fan filters are a cost-effective tool to reduce PM 2.5 inside a home during a wildfire smoke event. They can also help with poor air quality from other sources, like woodstoves.

The TPCHD can distribute an additional 500-1,000 box fan filters in 2021. The budget below is for 500 box fan filters. With this funding, TPCHD will supplement the existing funding for box filter fans in East Tacoma and South Tacoma, and, in addition, will prioritize distribution to residents in the Hilltop and Northeast Tacoma neighborhoods based on equity, topography and proximity to the Port. Neither the Hilltop nor the Northeast Tacoma communities receive priority for box fan filters from the current project the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has partnered with TPCHD on. TPCHD will partner with local community agencies, medical clinics and schools within these identified communities to identify qualified households.

Budget

Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Box fan	500	\$25.68	\$12,840
Merv 13	500	\$10.34	\$5,170
Fasteners	1000	\$1.10	\$1,100
Sales tax		10.3%	\$1,968.33
Shipping and handling estimate			\$200.00
Subtotal			\$21,278.33
	Hours	Rate	
Staff cost	80	\$48.38	\$3,870.40
Division management		6.50%	\$1,634.67
Indirect rate		21.00%	\$5,624.51
Total			\$32,407.91

*Supply shortages because COVID-19 and regional wildfires may require us to purchase in small batches. Individual item price will vary based on availability.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$32,407.91

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

We know Tacoma residents need more box fan filters. Data from the Healthy Youth Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System estimate 5,200 children in Tacoma have asthma and up to 12,200 seniors have heart or lung disease.

Age 0-17:

- About 11% of 10th graders in Pierce County report having asthma¹

- That translates to about 5200 kids, if all 0-17 age groups have a similar asthma prevalence as 10th graders.

Seniors:

- About 11%, or 3,100 adults 65+ report having asthma in Tacoma.
- About 19%, or 3,700 adults 65+ report having heart disease in Tacoma.
- About 13%, or 5,400 adults 65+ report having other lung diseases in Tacoma.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

In the last few years our region has seen the devastating impact of wildfire smoke on communities, and the disproportionate harm caused to those with pre-existing health concerns and to the low-income communities who cannot afford to access air filters or other infrastructure to protect their health. This will further existing health disparities in our City. The TPCHD is using a data-centered approach to determine which areas of the City of Tacoma are most impacted by wildfire smoke based on topography and proximate to local pollutants. Equity is embedded in their distribution of box filter fans so those most at risk and most in need are the ones served. The equity index score was determined by averaging the result for the Eastside Tacoma Neighborhood (low livability index score), the South Tacoma Neighborhood (low livability index score), the Central Tacoma Neighborhood (low livability index score), and the Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood (very high livability index score). While the Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood has a very high livability index score, its topography and proximately to the port creates unique challenges during extreme wildfire smoke conditions.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org.


SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____



Council Member Beale

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  POS# 8