

# **Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Pledge**

City of Tacoma

Office of Environmental Policy and  
Sustainability

**Infrastructure, Planning and  
Sustainability Committee  
October 25, 2017**



# Issues

- The region is experiencing sea level rise, rising temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, and diminishing snowpack.
- These changes increase, and in some cases pose new, risks for public health and safety, roads and bridges, critical public services.
- Many governments and NGOs in Central Puget Sound are taking steps to better understand local climate impacts and vulnerabilities.
- However, many climate impacts cross jurisdictional boundaries and the resources to prepare and build resiliency vary greatly between<sup>2</sup> organizations.

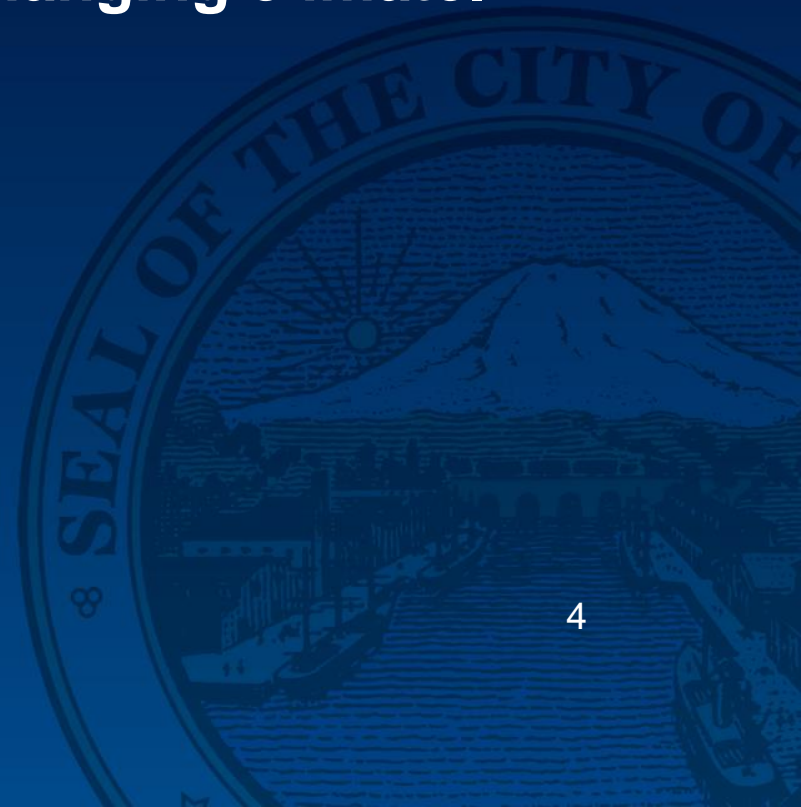
# Background

In 2015, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) began hosting staff from its four-county area to discuss climate change preparedness efforts and explore interest in forming a regional collaborative.

This has been done in several locations in the country. Staff from The Institute for Sustainable Cities (ISC) has helped facilitate discussions and development with funding from the Kresge Foundation.

# Goal

**The goal of the Collaborative is to work across the Puget Sound Region to ensure that our communities, economy, and environment are resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.**



# Opportunity

- Updates to the region's long-range transportation, hazard mitigation, climate action, and comprehensive plans, offer the opportunity to pool expertise and resources and to coordinate our efforts regionally.
- The Partnership has the benefit of drawing on the scientific and technical expertise of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG) as it works on preparedness efforts.
- Investments to prepare for climate impacts and build resilience offer opportunities to address broader inequities in health, mobility, and access <sup>5</sup> to economic opportunity.

# Proposal

Using the established four-county regional coordination framework to enhance coordination and improve the outcomes of climate change preparedness efforts by:

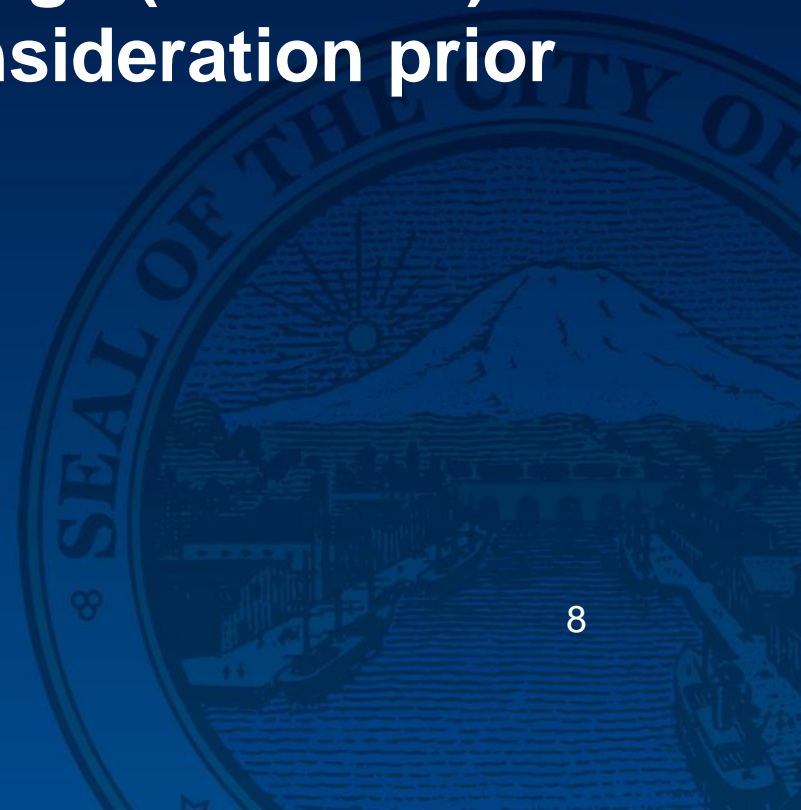
- Identify potential joint proposals.
- Sharing approaches.
- Working with networks and groups to engage diverse communities.
- Engaging business sector opportunities.
- Developing consistent public messaging.
- Identifying opportunities to coordinate public engagement for climate preparedness.

# Benefits

- Efficient and strategic use of resources
- Consistent and credible communication with the public
- Better informed and more efficient investment in major capital facilities
- More viable for future federal grants and foundation funding
- Active and coordinated engagement of diverse communities
- Broader base of support for climate efforts
- Proactively address climate impacts and risks regionally

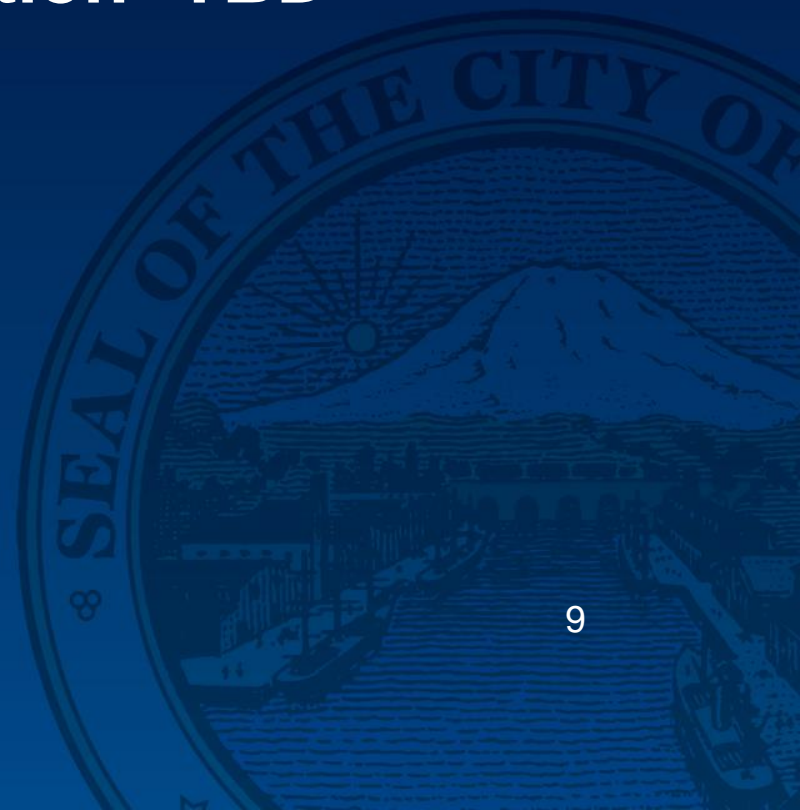
# Recommendations

**Staff requests Committee approval to draft a resolution adopting the Puget Sound Preparedness Pledge (attached) and bring for Council consideration prior to the end of the year.**



# Next Steps

- Prepare resolution November 10, 2017
- City Council Consideration- TBD



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