



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

**TO:** Mayor & City Council

**FROM:** Council Member Robert Thoms and Council Assistants Lynda Foster and  
Bucoda Warren

**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager; Bill Fosbre,  
City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File

**SUBJECT:** **Tideflats Economic Analysis study**

**DATE:** January 8, 2019

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**ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

**I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Study Session:**

I respectfully request City Council concurrence to direct the City Manager to allocate \$25,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund to the Tideflats Economic Analysis study overseen by the South Sound Manufacturing Industrial Council and Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, addressing the economic impact of businesses located in the Tacoma Tideflats

**BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

**Provide context for the issue and explain the need for the request.**

The Manufacturing Industrial Council for the South Sound is the voice for the area's manufacturing, industrial and maritime community. They promote and enhance a positive business climate for manufacturing and related industries. They are dedicated to safeguarding and improving people's lives, creating a sustainable environment, and providing the jobs that anchor Washington's economy. The Manufacturing Industrial Council for the South Sound ([www.micsouthsound.com](http://www.micsouthsound.com)) grew out of The Place for Jobs, a coalition of Pierce County leaders dedicated to creating and preserving local jobs.

In conjunction with the UWT Milgard School of Business's Center for Business Analytics, the Manufacturing Industrial Council wishes to quantify the economic impact of private businesses in the Tacoma Tideflats, an area of the city with predominantly manufacturing, heavy industrial, warehouse and maritime uses, which will augment previous economic analysis conducted by the Port of Tacoma for port owned lands (the port owns slightly over 50% of the land area in the Tideflats). They would use the same geographic boundaries as the city's current Subarea Plan process for the Tideflats/Port of Tacoma) and if they have funding capacity, would like to expand to include other industrial lands in Tacoma (South Tacoma and Nalley Valley) as identified by the geographic parameters for Tideflats Interim Regulations (<https://wspdsmap.cityoftacoma.org/website/PDS/TIR/>)

The City of Tacoma is currently embarking on a multiyear subarea planning process for the Tideflats and Port of Tacoma that will establish a long-term vision for the area. It is important that leaders understand the economic impact of the current Tideflats businesses quickly, and this project will help provide timely information to support our leaders in this process.

Ideally this project would also form the basis for a repeatable study that would be able to form a longitudinal analysis of the economic impact of the Tideflats region, and be able to address the following questions:

- The Tideflats economic impact over the years
- What would happen if various proportions of the Tideflats businesses went away
- The effects of encroachment on the Tideflats, that non-industrial uses will push at the borders of the Tideflats and change its use
- Quantify the economic impact of Tideflats jobs and businesses, not just in Tacoma but in Pierce County, Western Washington and statewide.

The Manufacturing Industrial Council for the South Sound is partnering with the UWT Center for Business Analytics and its faculty to gather the primary data and perform the initial analysis, as well as form the basis for a partnership for continual data analysis. They have previous experience in performing this type of analysis, having completed the economic analysis of JBLM last year.

We will be providing the following resources:

- Data sets for Major Employers and other lists of key businesses and job sectors in Pierce County.
- Contacts in the Tideflats to help MSBA students reach out to smaller businesses to gather additional data.
- Contacts within The Port of Tacoma to compare economic reports to ensure comparability.
- Contacts within the City of Tacoma and Pierce County for access to reports and other materials quantifying the local economy and job market.

This is an excellent opportunity to continuing fostering community engagement through an auspicious and important collaboration on a topic of significant concern to the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, and the South Sound region.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

**State and briefly explain which strategic policy priority is best aligned to this action. Please remove the statements below you are not directly addressing.**

- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT PATH:**

☒ Request for Resolution

**FUNDING REQUESTED:**

☒ Council Contingency Fund Request

Request for \$25,000 from the Council Contingency Fund.

Does the request require some other type of funding? ☒ One-time ☐ Ongoing

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Bucoda Warren at 253.594.7925 or [Bucoda.Warren@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Bucoda.Warren@cityoftacoma.org).



SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:


Council Member Robert Thoms

**SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS 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. Victoria R. Woodards

POS # Mayor

2.   
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POS# 7

## 2019-2020 Council Contingency Commitments

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