



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director
COPY: Government Performance and Finance Committee
PRESENTER: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director
SUBJECT: Environmental Services Commission Overview
DATE: June 1, 2021

M. Slevin

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Environmental Services Director, Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., will give an overview of the Environmental Services Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Services Commission (ESC), appointed by the City Manager, has worked diligently with the Environmental Services Department for over 25 years. The purpose of the ESC is to review and make recommendations to the City Council, City Manager, and City staff on wastewater, surface water, and solid waste rates, rate structures, services, policies, and programs developed by Environmental Services.

This is a 15 member Commission representing a cross section of Tacoma's residential, business, and regulatory communities. There are 13 voting members and two ex-officio non-voting members. Each position serves a 3-year term and members represent:

- Large Business (e.g., hospitals, Tacoma Mall, manufacturers);
- Small Business (e.g., retail, restaurant, office);
- Developers (e.g., residential, commercial general contractor/developer, builders association);
- Commercial/Business Association (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Executive Council); Government
- Customer/Interests (two positions) (e.g., Pierce County, Fife, Fircrest, Metro Parks Tacoma, Port of Tacoma, Puyallup Tribe, Tacoma Public Schools);
- Multi-family Residential (two positions) (e.g., apartment landlord);
- Residential (three positions representing Council Districts and one At-large position);
- Sustainable Tacoma Commission Liaison; and
- Regulatory Agency/ ex-officio member (two positions) (e.g. Washington State Department of Ecology, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department).

Commission members consider the environment, equity, cultural and economic responsibilities, and the duties, obligations and limitations under state, federal and local laws and regulations.

The ESC meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month. During a "rate year" they review the budget, rates, capital projects, and program; and during the alternate year they tour Environmental Services facilities, get information on ongoing and upcoming projects and programs, and receive updates on education and outreach efforts.



The Environmental Services Department values the feedback and recommendations of the ESC. They play a vital role in setting rates, policies, and programs. In the Environmental Services Department “We believe everything we do supports healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all” and the service of the ESC plays a key role.

ISSUE:

At the request of Council, we are providing an informational brief on the purpose, charter and status of the Environmental Services Commission.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.