



# The Rainier Review

Fall 2013

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SERVING THE PIERCE COUNTY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

“Explore, enjoy  
and protect  
the planet”

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## Sierra Club Endorsements— Be Sure to Vote



### Senator Nathan Schlicher for 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Senator

Sen. Nathan Schlicher, who was temporarily appointed to fill the seat vacated by former Sen. Derek Kilmer in this 2013 State Legislative Session, is a very bright young rising star in local and state politics. He is a practicing ER physician in his day-job, but is also an attorney, and is an expert on health care policy. He is well-informed on issues of the environment and has already made numerous pro-environment votes consistent with the agendas of the environmental community and Sierra Club in the 2013 regular and special sessions. He voted to fend off the onslaught of an abundance of conservative-sponsored anti-environment proposed legislation in the Senate this year. Examples of his environmental commitment were his votes: defending I-937, protecting water resources, reducing climate changing pollution, protecting our limited water resources (surface and aquifers), protecting the gray wolf, adequately funding public transportation (including bus, rail & bike/pedestrian), creating jobs for a clean economy, and promoting environmental justice. He has also been receptive to learning about the perils of unbridled expansion of industrial aquaculture in the South Sound.

It is imperative that Sen. Schlicher hold onto this Senate seat to not only help push forward a pro-environmental agenda in the Senate, but also to prevent the anti-environment conservatives from holding a majority control of the Senate. This is a high profile/high stakes race and is drawing big money into each candidate's campaigns. His opponent, Rep. Jan Angel, has a strong anti-environment voting record in the House with a lifetime Washington Conservation Voters rating of merely 11 points out of 100.

## City of Tacoma Endorsements



### Marilyn Strickland for Re-election for Tacoma Mayor

Mayor Strickland is a dynamic and charismatic person who is quite popular with the residents of Tacoma. She is unopposed in her run for a second term as Mayor of Tacoma this year. She takes great pride in her mixed-ethnic heritage and has worked hard on social justice issues. She has an exciting vision for Tacoma's future and a commitment to promoting public transit and street restoration, including bike/pedestrian infrastructure, and mixed-use inner city development to increase urban density. She is willing to listen and learn. Mayor Strickland has provided strong leadership to get things done, while balancing economic development with environmental protection and sustainability. We continue to support Marilyn Strickland for Mayor of Tacoma for another term.



### Marty Campbell for Tacoma City Council Position 4

Marty Campbell, who is seeking his second term in Tacoma City Council Position 4, is unopposed in this election. He has a wealth of experience as an active leader in the business, arts and neighborhood communities. As a small business owner, he has a strong vision for making Tacoma a world-class city by not only growing jobs and business opportunities in Tacoma, but doing it in a way that protects the environment. He has supported increased density coupled with progressive environmental transportation policies that would reduce parking in the downtown core, expanding bus, light rail and streetcar systems. He has extensively researched public transportation and parking systems and policies, which have worked well in other cities around the country. He has broad support from the business and environmental communities. Mr. Campbell has the experience and the people skills to bridge opposing factions on the City Council.

## Tacoma City Council Endorsements continued



### **Victoria Woodards for Re-election to Tacoma City Council - Position 6**

Ms. Woodards was elected to the Tacoma City Council for her first term in 2009. Prior to her service on the Council, she was elected to Tacoma's Metropolitan Parks Board of Commissioners in 2004 where she served until 2009 as its President. Though her expertise has been in the human services area, including social justice for ethnic minorities, veterans and the disadvantaged, she has demonstrated her commitment to health and environmental causes in her first term. She has made important votes for Pierce Transit funding proposals, "Complete Streets" and the Mobility Master Plan implementation. She is closely aligned with the current green leader on the Council, Council Member Ryan Mello. She strongly supports Prop. 1 (utility tax for improvement of streets for vehicles, bikes and pedestrians) on the upcoming November 2013 ballot. She has committed to support a plastic bag ordinance that should be considered by the Council in upcoming months. Her opponent in this non-partisan race is currently in jail and has never been a serious viable candidate for the job. Council Member Woodards is the clear choice of the Sierra Club for this position.



### **Robert Thoms for Tacoma City Council, Position 2**

Robert Thoms was temporarily appointed to fill the council seat vacated by Jake Fey in January 2013. Council Member Thoms clearly has more knowledge, experience and understanding of environmental issues in Tacoma than his opponent. His experience includes working as a staffer for Sen. Maria Cantwell in the Pierce County area, promoting the passage of federal legislation to help prevent companies like Asarco from walking away from its clean-up responsibilities by declaring bankruptcy. Thoms wants assurance the bike-pedestrian pathway, being developed from the Foss waterway to Pt. Defiance, gets fully completed. He also supports the transportation funding proposals, such as a local taxing authority, being proposed in the Legislature to support Pierce Transit. For safety reasons he wants more crosswalks developed in the city with more consideration of public input. Thoms is informed on environmental sustainability issues, such as the City's Shoreline and Transportation Master Plans and would best represent our environmental interests in this race.



### **Olgy Diaz for Tacoma City Council, Position 5**

Ms. Diaz is a young woman currently working as a legislative aide for Rep. David Sawyer (29<sup>th</sup> LD). As a second-term Vice President of the Pierce County Young Democrats, she is a political activist with a strong focus on issues of women and the needy constituents of her predominantly lower economic blue-collar district. She also has a good understanding of environmental sustainability and lives according to her green values. She is challenging her first-term conservative incumbent opponent, Joe Lonergan. Mr. Lonergan has focused his efforts on the Council on economic development and has sought mostly private sector solutions to city government challenges. Of all the Council members, he has cast the most votes unfriendly to the environment. He, unlike Ms. Diaz, is skeptical about accepting the influence of humankind on climate change as problem and opposes aggressively dealing with it. She has strong campaigning experience from working as a staffer for the Obama's and Congressman Adam Smith's campaigns. With Ms. Diaz's excellent campaign plan and having strong volunteer support from labor, women's groups, and the environmental community, she has a good chance to win this race.

## ATTEND THE COAL EXPORT HEARING

**Pierce County is at a crossroads. Here's your chance to stand up for a safe, healthy, coal-free future for our region.**

**Foreign coal companies like Ambre Energy hope to make big profits by shipping coal to Asia. This proposal will harm the very industries that our state relies on for prosperous fishing and tourism by dumping mercury into our waters, making our Puget Sound more acidic, and exacerbating the climate crisis. We can do better.**

**The environmental review process is underway for a proposed 44 million-ton coal export terminal in Longview, WA. There will be 5 hearings across the state, and the closest one to Snohomish County is in Tacoma.**

**When: Thursday, October 17th, Rally at 3:30 pm, Doors open at 4 pm, Hearing 5 pm--8pm  
Where: Tacoma Convention Center 1500 Broadway Tacoma, WA 98402**

**We need you to attend this important hearing and demand that any coal export proposal have an extensive review to protect the citizens of the Northwest.**

**Contact Robin Everett for more information: [robin.everett@sierraclub.org](mailto:robin.everett@sierraclub.org) or call 206-378-0114 x308**

## Vote YES for Tacoma Prop. 1 (Street Improvement Utility Tax)

### SPECIAL ELECTION – PROPOSITION NO. 1

### 2% UTILITY COMPANY EARNINGS TAX FOR TACOMA STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Tacoma is asking voters to consider a measure increasing the earnings tax on utility companies for neighborhood street improvements and safety upgrades. The Proposition 1 November 5, 2013 general ballot measure is an option that would generate \$10 to \$11 million annually for the sole purpose of dedicated funds for streets improvements.

#### Finding Solutions

Citizen volunteers have spent two years examining the City's road issues and possible solutions. This proposal of a dedicated and sustainable funding source to address growing needs and focusing on school safety, residential road maintenance and arterial maintenance is the result. If approved by voters, over the next five years dedicated funding would allow us to provide:

- **Safety improvements near schools**
- **Pothole repairs**
- **Neighborhood street improvements and basic maintenance**
- **More arterial improvements and basic maintenance**

If passed, Proposition No. 1 would authorize the City to levy an additional 2% earnings tax on natural gas, electric and phone companies for the sole purpose of funding basic maintenance and safety upgrades city-wide, for roads, arterials and bridges; permanent pothole repairs; pedestrian safety improvement to crosswalks near schools, sidewalks, and intersections; repaving neighborhood streets; and improved signal timing. It's possible that utility companies will pass this cost increase on to their customers through their rates. (City Council would have to approve any Tacoma Power rate change.) If the full cost is passed along, the combined cost to the average household would be about \$4.70 per month.

The Sierra Club SUPPORTS Prop. 1 for the following reasons:

1. *City streets currently cannot be repaired and upgraded fast enough because of loss of revenues from federal, state and local taxes and grants driven primarily by the current economic recession. Tacoma is putting the safety of its school children, walkers, bikers, and vehicle drivers at risk.*
2. *The revenues from this unique creative tax will provide funds and fiscal leverage to substantially upgrade deficient streets throughout the City at a much faster pace than the City is currently able to accomplish, with a very minimal cost to household utility ratepayers.*
3. *From the standpoint of environmental, economic, and social/cultural sustainability, making Tacoma a place where people want to visit, live, work, and play, having more "Complete Streets" (accommodating all modes of transportation safely) and "Green Roads" (efficiently planned, built and maintained with long lasting materials producing a low carbon foot print) will ultimately encourage more walking and biking, improve physical and mental health and discourage unnecessary usage of single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) which pollute the air with toxic and greenhouse gas emissions.*



**The mountains are calling and I  
must go. ~ John Muir**

## Vote Yes on I-522

A “yes” vote on I-522 would give Washington shoppers more information about what’s in their food and control over their shopping decisions. Under this initiative, genetically engineered foods to be labeled could include chips, cold cereals, soft drinks, candy, corn and soy. Our food is already labeled with nutritional information, including sugar, sodium, whether flavors are natural or artificial and if salmon is wild or farm-raised. Additionally, American companies are already required to label genetically engineered food in 64 other countries. They should provide the same information to American shoppers.

A link to the yes on I-522 web site for more information <http://yeson522.com/>

### INITIATIVE 522

Epic battles are occurring in Washington State, with citizens pitted against chemical, pesticide and food conglomerates on whether to label genetically engineered (GE) foods with passage of I-522 and whether to require more rigorous testing and higher standards before the Food and Drug Administration approves GE animals for consumption. (The FDA is recommending approval of GE salmon.) The commercial production of GE species without appropriate safeguards for human and environmental health has heightened concern worldwide. Under I-522, GE salmon and animals would be labeled.

Several Washington and Northwest lawmakers are leaders in supporting federal labeling legislation if the FDA approves GE salmon. But in the November 5<sup>th</sup> election, our state’s voters can provide the clear message that our right to know what we are consuming will not be trumped by corporate dishonesty and huge sums of money. If I-522 passes, dozens of other states with labeling initiatives and bills will be inspired, and we all could have information that is already available to consumers in the 64 nations that require labeling. US food manufacturers comply with those laws, yet are spending millions of dollars to deny US consumers the same information.

The food sources for many of our region’s fish and marine mammals are already at risk from other industrial aquaculture activities that Sierra Club has documented. Miles of tidelands are being converted to monoculture geoduck farms and intensive non-native oyster production. Information on the loss of marine vegetation and forage fish, the base of the food chain, is available on the Tatoosh website: [Washington.sierraclub.org/tatoosh/](http://Washington.sierraclub.org/tatoosh/).

In 1999, the Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee was formed for “the work of public education and regulatory reform that will be necessary to protect the natural environment and human health from the threats posed by the release of genetically engineered organisms”. The committee reported that the “technological upheaval happened virtually without public debate, while our government played the role of enthusiastic promoter, rather than cautious regulator, of this radically new and environmentally hazardous technology”. The Sierra Club Genetic Engineering committee also recommends that members “write to your members of Congress urging them to support the bills and start biotechnology committees within your own region”. At least, these novel life forms need to be labeled. Passage of I-522 in Washington will be followed by dozens of other states ready to take action, protecting rights of consumers and our local waters and wild fish. **By Anne Mosness Mt Baker Group**

## Sign up to receive our newsletter by email



Go paperless! The Tatoosh group is joining the Sierra Club nationally in its effort to limit paper use by providing electronic copies of this newsletter to those who would prefer that to a paper copy. If you would prefer to receive an email link to future newsletters, please send an email to [dorothyw@centurylink.net](mailto:dorothyw@centurylink.net). Please send your complete name and address so that we can be sure to eliminate your paper copy. Also, if you do not indicate otherwise, we will assume you would like your email address updated in the Sierra Club national database. This will allow you to receive email news and updates on national conservation initiatives from the National Sierra Club. **You can also**

**find us on the web at <http://washington.sierraclub.org/tatoosh/>**

## Meet the Candidates for Tatoosh Group Executive Committee

### Laura Hendricks

I have worked with wild animals since childhood and always loved the outdoors. Over the last few years I have worked with Sierra Club on shoreline issues and the protection of our native aquatic species. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Tatoosh Group ExCom as we try to engage other activists in our area to work on issues that they are passionate about.

### Torun Parker

My name is Torun Parker. I live in North Tacoma and have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2001. I have previously served on the Executive Board for two terms and usually always attend the monthly meetings. I have collected many signatures for initiatives and tabled for Sierra Club at many events in Pierce County. I am very interested in improving water and air quality. Improving public transportation is very important to me. I am a senior and use public transportation whenever possible. Most important members; please vote and participate.

### Dorothy Walker

I have been a member of the Tatoosh Group Executive Committee for three years and am the current chair. I serve on the political committee, do computer related tasks for the group and am an outings leader. I live in the Gig Harbor area of Pierce Co. I love spending time in the great outdoors, hiking or skiing whenever I get the chance. I believe very strongly that we need to be protecting and preserving our environment and choose to participate in the Sierra Club because of its track record of effective advocacy for the environment.

## Voting Instructions

Three interested and qualified candidates have applied for the three open Executive Committee positions. According to our by-laws it is necessary to hold an election. Under "Member-Voter", please mark your ballot with an "X" for up to three candidates. If you have a dual membership (e.g., wife & husband), the second party of the dual membership should mark the ballot for up to three candidates under "2<sup>nd</sup> Member-Voter". Then, **cut off the ballot and mail it to Shirley Moore at 6116 N Park Ave, Tacoma, WA 98407 by December 15, 2013. If you receive an e-newsletter, you can vote by printing and mailing the ballot or by attaching it to an email. Please email to shirleygmoore@yahoo.com.** Thanks for your participation.

**TATOOSH GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT**  
Vote for up to three candidates

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Member-Voter</b>                      | <b>2nd Member-Voter<br/>dual membership households only)</b> |
| Laura Hendricks <input type="checkbox"/> | Laura Hendricks <input type="checkbox"/>                     |
| Torun Parker <input type="checkbox"/>    | Torun Parker <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
| Dorothy Walker <input type="checkbox"/>  | Dorothy Walker <input type="checkbox"/>                      |

**When complete, cut off the ballot and mail it to: Shirley Moore at 6116 N Park Ave, Tacoma, WA 98407 by December 15, 2013.**



Sierra Club—Pacific NW  
Chapter  
180 Nickerson St, #202  
Seattle, WA 98109-1631

**Like us on Facebook ~ Sierra Club  
Tatoosh Group—Pierce County**

**General Election  
November 5,  
2013  
PLEASE BE SURE  
TO VOTE**

**2014 Sierra Club Calendars**



**2014 Sierra Club Calendars Are Here!**

Enjoy the grandeur of nature while helping support your Pierce County Tatoosh Group. These calendars with their awe-inspiring color photographs have been among the most popular nature calendars sold for the past 30 years. The annual calendar sale is the Tatoosh Group's major fundraiser, with proceeds helping to pay for our environmental and conservation activities. These spiral-bound calendars now come in recyclable shrink wrap and make great holiday gifts.

**Wilderness (Wall) Calendars are \$13** each, measure 13 1/2" by 11 15/16", with a large wilderness photo for each month capturing the beauty of the North American landscape. These calendars also have a 1 1/2 x 2" box for each day of the month.

**Engagement calendars are \$14** each, measure 9 1/4" X 6 5/16", feature 57 color photos of wild animals, plants or scenes and week-at-a-glance spaces for writing.

**In combinations of 3 or more calendars are \$12 each**

**To purchase calendars** and arrange for pick up or delivery, please contact:

**Shirley Moore** at 253-752-6472 or [shirleygmoore@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleygmoore@yahoo.com)

**Torun Parker** at 253-759-7830 or [TSPARKE@AOL.COM](mailto:TSPARKE@AOL.COM)

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