



The Rainier Review

Fall 2017

Special Election Issue

SERVING THE PIERCE COUNTY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

“Explore, enjoy
and protect
the planet”

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Puget Sound Energy Liquefied Natural Gas—What’s Going On?



Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is a private investment arm of the **Australia Macquarie Group**. PSE, along with the Port of Tacoma, plan to construct and operate a facility on the Blair Waterway that would receive natural gas, process it into liquefied natural gas (LNG), store and distribute the LNG to vessels, barges and trucks, and vaporize some LNG back to its gaseous state for further distribution. The plan would construct a new pipeline to deliver natural gas to and from the facility, a liquefaction facility to cool the natural gas into a liquid state as LNG, a 140 foot high storage facility for storing up to 8 million gallons of LNG at cryogenic temperatures, a vessel fueling system consisting of a cryogenic pipeline from the storage facility to an in-water trestle in the Blair Waterway, and a natural gas distribution system that would be capable of vaporizing LNG back to gas for delivery to PSE’s customers. The facility would produce up to 500,000 gallons of LNG per day.

The Puyallup Indian Reservation surrounds much of Commencement Bay and is directly adjacent to the proposed facility. The Puyallup Tribe is an active opponent of the PSE LNG facility and is engaged in litigation to prevent it from being built.

Construction is underway despite PSE not having all the necessary permits and despite the pending appeal in the Court of Appeals of the Shoreline Substantial Development Permit by the Puyallup Tribe.

The Tribe has also requested stop work orders of the Washington Department of Ecology, The US Army Corp of Engineers, The City of Tacoma and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

The City of Tacoma has determined to embark on a subarea planning process for the Port of Tacoma to determine future allowed land use in the Port.

On October 4, the Tacoma Planning Commission voted to recommend interim regulations to City Council. The regulations would pause coal, oil, natural gas, chemical production or storage and mining or quarrying developments in the Port of Tacoma until completion of a subarea plan for the Port. They also recommended limiting expansion of these existing facilities to a maximum of 10%, and to require a conditional use permit for any expansion. The regulations will be considered by the City Council. Watch for the public hearing. Sierra Club and other environmental groups are supporting the interim regulations.

The City of Tacoma continues to pursue its case against the “Super Six Water Protectors” arrested for chaining themselves to an auger at the PSE site in protest of construction.

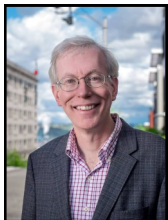
On September 30, the Puyallup Water Warriors & Redefine Tacoma started a petition: “Stand with the Puyallup Tribe – NO LNG Fracked Gas is the Salish Sea”. Currently over 1800 have signed it.

(article continued on page 3)

Sierra Club Endorsements—Tacoma Mayor & City Council



Jim Merritt is endorsed for Tacoma Mayor. He is a graduate of the University of Washington, Magna Cum Laude, in Architecture and Urban Planning. A business owner, architect, planner and facilitator, his expertise is collaborating with citizens, non-profits, schools, city, county and port authorities to find cost-effective solutions to Tacoma's challenges. As a long-time Sierra Club member, he has been significantly involved in facilitating restoration and redevelopment of EPA Super Fund sites around Tacoma's Commencement Bay. He seeks for clean solutions, with maximum community involvement to address climate change. Environmental protection and sustainability are cornerstones of his philosophy to balance societal needs with transitioning to clean, sustainable environmental development.



Philip Cowan is endorsed for the Tacoma City Council position 2 seat. He was Executive Director of the Grand Cinema Theatre for ten years, Cowan has brought this non-profit business from a red unsustainable path to survival. With a strong passion to promote Tacoma to a welcoming clean green city, he holds a leadership position in the American Leadership Forum of Pierce County; along with the Arts and Cultural Coalition of Pierce County. He believes City Council must prevent Tacoma from expanding fossil fuel industry growth, including the LNG project at the Port. A strong progressive, he is eager to help convert Tacoma to a green future by enticing new residents and businesses necessary for the economic and public health.



Kevin Grossman is endorsed for the Tacoma City Council position 4 seat. He is a local business man that assists small businesses who want to renovate historic and decaying buildings to be energy efficient. He promotes affordable housing, city-wide compliance with the Growth Management Act, and coordinates regional approaches for growing quality jobs, and engages his community to address their needs. He completed the development of two Community Solar projects using Washington State's Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Program in order to provide access to a greener, cleaner environment. He serves on the State's Affordable Housing Policy Advisory Group and he supports transportation options that include more bike lanes and pedestrian pathways.



Chris Beale is endorsed for the Tacoma City Council position 5 seat. He is a graduate of the University of Washington-Tacoma with a B.A. in Urban Studies, and works as a Senior Planner for the City of Puyallup and chairs the City of Tacoma's Planning Commission. He is Board President of the local non-profit, Forever Green Trails and is a member of Pierce's Transit Citizen Advisory Council. He is committed to one of Sierra's highest priorities of halting fossil fuel industry expansion at the Port of Tacoma tideflats. He will lead to promote living-wage jobs, affordable housing, addressing homelessness, community safety, environmental protection and improved transportation to include all modes of transport.

Sierra Club Endorsements—Port of Tacoma Commissioner



John McCarthy is endorsed for the Port of Tacoma Commissioner position 1 seat. He was born and raised in Tacoma, McCarthy worked for 10 years as a casual longshoreman at the Port to earn tuition for high school, college and law school. A graduate of San Francisco School of Law, he has had a successful law practice in Tacoma. From 1983 to 1992 he served as Port Commissioner. During that period he was the Port Commission representative to help establish settlement negotiations with the Puyallup tribal land claims which was adopted by Congress in 1990. He believes in serving the community through his volunteerism with 8 years as a volunteer with the National Parks Service at Mt. Rainier.

Sierra Club Endorsements—Port of Tacoma Commissioner, continued from page 2



Noah Davis is endorsed for the Port of Tacoma Commissioner position 2 seat. He is an accomplished attorney in international commercial law. He has practiced in Washington since 2001. He helped create the Student Sierra Club at the University of Arkansas and later spent several years working and studying in Asia. As a current worker in the tideflats area, he would work towards solving issues to complete the unfinished EPA Super Fund sites and to stop the expansion of fossil fuel and industrial toxic chemical development, including the LNG. He believes the Port should develop clean, green industries and businesses with living-wage jobs for those living and working in our communities.



Don Meyer is endorsed for the Port of Tacoma Commissioner position 4 seat. He has been a Port Commissioner since 2010, he's a small business owner and Executive Committee member of the Washington Public Ports Association. He was formerly a Director of the Foss Waterway Development Authority, Deputy Director of the Port of Tacoma and Deputy Director of the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Concerned with climate change, he opposes fossil fuel export terminals. He will work towards cleaning up the unfinished projects like the Occidental Chemical site. Since the Port has adopted Seattle's green sustainability strategies to reduce energy consumption, Meyer would support green house gas analysis as part of the EIS for WSDT transportation projects.

Puget Sound Energy, continued from page 1

You can sign here: <https://www.change.org/p/jay-inslee-stand-with-the-puyallup-tribe-no-lng-fracked-gas-in-the-salish-sea>

Columbia Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club, and Center for Biological Diversity received a victory in their challenge to a proposed methanol refinery in Kalama, Washington. Washington's Shorelines Hearings Board (Board) ruled that the Port of Kalama and Cowlitz County violated the law by failing to disclose and evaluate greenhouse gas emissions from the world's largest methanol refinery, proposed on the banks of the Columbia River. As a result, permits previously issued for the project are invalid.

"You can't build a massive fossil fuel project like this and pretend that the impacts end at the property line," said Nathan Matthews, staff attorney for the Sierra Club. "The public deserves to know the climate impacts of fracked gas, from the wellhead to the pipelines to refinery, all the way to the export to Asia."

Contrast the above decision with the City of Tacoma's scoping decision for its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which determined that "Any impacts associated with natural gas extraction, processing and transportation to the PSE natural gas system were considered too remote to the actual impacts of the project in and around the project site, and in the City of Tacoma generally, to legitimately be part of the scope of the EIS."

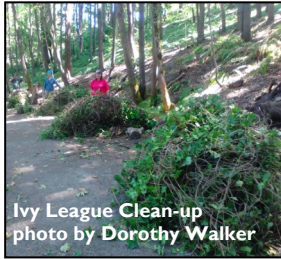
On Oct 15, attend the Lummi Totem Pole Journey in Tacoma: We Draw the Line! Hosted by Our Shared Responsibility: A Totem Pole Journey and Sierra Club Washington State Chapter, will be in Tacoma on the Foss Waterway 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Continue to attend City Council meetings and Port of Tacoma meetings to testify that this project is dangerous, unhealthy, and contributory to climate change. Ask Governor Inslee and the Department of Ecology to intervene. See REDefineTacoma.org and Redefine Tacoma Community forum and Sierra Club Tatoosh Group Facebook pages for the latest.

General Election—November 7, 2017
REMEMBER TO VOTE

Invasive Species Cost Washington State

By Brett Johnson



Ivy League Clean-up
photo by Dorothy Walker

The Washington Invasive Species Council recently released an eye-opening report on the costs of invasive species in the state. Without providing measures to prevent their spread, 23 of the most damaging invasive species will cost our state \$1.3 billion a

year and nearly 8,000 jobs! More than 200 known invasive species are found in or near Washington state. The report details the effects that might result if 23 of these species were able to spread in Washington in one year.

"Invasive species are plants and animals not native to Washington, and once they land here, they out-compete existing wildlife," said Justin Bush, executive coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council.

"They can wipe out crops, clog waterways, damage pipes and dams and completely change the landscape and the wildlife that live there. Left unchecked, invasive species can ring up huge costs for control, kill jobs and harm our economy."

The report indicated that just four invasive species alone cost our state more than \$927 million and 5,140 lost jobs: Rush skeletonweed, Scotch broom, apple maggot, and zebra/quagga mussels.

"Invasive species, including noxious weeds, affect all of us in Washington," says Alison Halpern, the executive secretary of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. "Many people have probably seen Scotch broom take over a vacant lot, knapweeds crowd out rangeland plants or Eurasian milfoil plug up a lake and make it hard to swim or boat. It's important to understand that not only are they reducing native plant diversity and degrading important habitat, but they also can really hurt businesses that rely on Washington's natural resources."

Tatoosh Group's own "Ivy League" regularly visits local parks and preserves with the goal of removing invasive species such as English ivy and Scotch broom from natural areas. We encourage you to join us at a Saturday morning work party: October 14 at McKinley Park, October 28 at Parkland Prairie, November 4 at China Lake, or November 18 at Parkland Prairie.

(Statistics courtesy of the Washington Invasive Species Council's 2017 Economic Impact of Invasive Species Report)

Why is Washington State Allowing Industrial Aquaculture That Puts Our Wild Salmon At Risk? By Laura Hendricks

By now you may have heard about the collapsed net pen that held over 300,000 non-native farmed Atlantic Salmon near Cypress in the San Juan Islands. Cooke Aquaculture blamed the escape on the solar eclipse and they also stated that the farmed salmon would stay close to the net pens, their fish were healthy and most of the fish were eventually caught—all of these statements were just not true. For years, Washington citizens have been telling the Washington Department of Ecology that these net pens were not being monitored, there was no contingency plan and that the pens were in a derelict condition—all of these statements were true. Tribes and commercial fishermen went into action and tried to catch as many of these fish as they could to get them out of our waters. Seattle chefs spoke out against the net pens in Washington State and even renowned chef Tom Douglas refused to provide a recipe for Atlantic salmon.

Puget Sound wild salmon populations are dwindling and the Orcas that depend on our wild salmon are endangered. Our native salmon do not need to be subjected to more pollution, viruses and parasites from these non-native fish. Yes, these Atlantic salmon were found in streams even as far away as the Columbia River border of Oregon. We have to ask why we are raising non-native salmon in Washington waters when the majority of these fish are sold outside Washington. We should join our neighbors in California, Oregon and Alaska that have not permitted non-native Atlantic salmon in their marine waters.

The Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association have requested once again a permit to spray the pesticide Imidacloprid over shorelines in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. Their first request was pulled by Ecology when chefs and citizens were outraged at the spraying of pesticides that harm all types of aquatic life in our marine waters. Citizens also expressed their concerns about the safety of eating shellfish in those areas. Industry is demanding to eradicate native burrowing shrimp by spraying Imidacloprid. Industry considers native shrimp a pest that make the substrate too soft to grow their oysters, but they keep spraying the pesticide Imazamox to kill eelgrass resulting in wonderful soft mud flats for burrowing shrimp.

Join us in asking the Washington Department of Ecology to ban new net pens in Washington State, for the closure of existing net pens and to deny any permits to spray pesticides directly into our marine waters. You can reach Director Maia Bellon at: maib461@ecy.wa.gov

Tatoosh Group Executive Committee Candidates

Dorothy Walker: I have been a member of the Tatoosh Group Executive Committee for seven 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.

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.

Diane Martin: I currently serve on both ExCom and PolCom Tatoosh committees and would like to extend my service to this vital organization that serves Tacoma and the surrounding area. Originally from Pennsylvania, I have witnessed the destruction of our beautiful earth through the fossil fuel industry. I lived a short distance from the Allegheny National Forest and through decades of “managed care” saw the devastation from the timber, gas and oil industries. Profits over nature were the rule of the day. My husband and I worked through several environmental organizations to try and halt the attacks on this public treasure. We need organizations like the Sierra Club to continue to sound our voices against the fossil fuel industry. I am encouraged with a few progressive Tacoma City Council members who have the foresight to begin a halt to this industry in exchange for sustainable green industries within the City and the Port.

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 two candidates under “2nd Member-Voter”. Mailing instructions are on the ballot below.

TATOOSH GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT

Vote 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 two candidates under “2nd Member-Voter”.

Member-Voter

- Dorothy Walker
- Laura Hendricks
- Diane Martin

2nd Member-Voter

(dual membership households only)

- Dorothy Walker
- Laura Hendricks
- Diane Martin

When complete, cut off the ballot and mail it to: Torun Parker, 4513 N22nd St. Tacoma, WA 98406 by December 15, 2017. 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 tspark@aol.com. Thank you for your participation.

The Great Outdoors are calling—Join us for an upcoming adventure.

See page 6 for Fall Outings Calendar.



Lena Lake Hike, photo by Rick Semple



Pinnacle Peak Saddle, photo by Rick Semple



Sierra Club—Pacific NW
Chapter
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Seattle, WA 98109-1631

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Fall Outings Calendar

Saturday October 14 9am-Noon *Green Tacoma Day* - Ivy League returns to **McKinley Park** to remove English ivy - park near 907 Upper Park Street to meet up.

Sunday, October 15 at 6:30 PM - 8 PM **Lummi Totem Pole Journey in Tacoma: We Draw the Line!** Hosted by Our Shared Responsibility: A Totem Pole Journey and Sierra Club Washington State Chapter

Friday, Oct 20, **Hike the Lower South Fork Skokomish River, Olympic National Forest** – Round Trip 8.5 – 10 miles, elevation gain 800'

Saturday October 28 10am-Noon *Make a Difference Day* - we'll be planting trees and shrubs at good ol' **Parkland Prairie** - meet at the corner of Tule Lake Rd and Yakima Ave S.

Saturday November 4 9am-Noon Ivy League revisits **China Lake** to remove English ivy and other invasive plants.

Saturday November 18 10am-Noon *Family Volunteer Day* - we'll be planting more trees and shrubs along the creek at **Parkland Prairie** - meet at the corner of Tule Lake Rd and Yakima Ave S.



Comet Falls Outing Summer 2017
photo by Dorothy Walker