



## Public Comments

**Meeting:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022

**Submittal:** Written comments only; e-mailed received at [planning@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:planning@cityoftacoma.org) by 12:00 noon, on the meeting day

**Subjects:** Comments are addressing the following Discussion Item on the agenda:

**#1 – 2022 Amendment (Work Plan for South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Code Amendments)**

**No. of  
Comments:** 3





climatepiercecouny.org

February 16, 2022

**RE: South Tacoma Economic Green Zone Amendment**

Dear Tacoma Planning Commission Members:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the South Tacoma Economic Green Zone Amendment, and support the work plan for updating the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District code as the first phase to implement this proposal. Our group is a coordinating council for several environmental organizations who are concerned about climate change. We are writing in support of the amendment.

The South Tacoma aquifer is a regular summer source of water for the city, which will become ever more valuable as climate change impacts the water flowing through the Green River in the summer. It fully recharges every winter. Tacoma Waters owns 14 wells in the South Tacoma well field, and one of them is devoted to pumping and cleaning water contaminated by Time Oil decades ago<sup>1</sup>. The superfund site caused by Time Oil has been in clean-up for years and still has years to go. It is imperative that no new sources of pollution are added above ground to contaminate the aquifer.

The amendment addresses the need for the required review of the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) to be carried out in line with the city's current philosophy as expressed in the recently adopted Climate Action Plan and several other city documents. The adoption of an Economic Green Zone above the aquifer meets at least three of the city's stated goals: developing a green economy, providing a new source of clean jobs to frontline communities, and protecting the city's natural resources. South Tacoma is mostly a frontline community based on the Tacoma Equity Index Map<sup>2</sup> and is a part of the city where the tree canopy for the majority of community is below 15%,<sup>3</sup> well below the 30% the city is aiming for. These are the concerns the city, in its Climate Action Plan, is specifically addressing promoting clean job growth and more resources. The Economic Green Zone plan meets that and has the benefit of already being initiated by the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council.

Climate Pierce County endorses the amendment and asks that the Planning Commission support it. Please bring this amendment forward and help create positive change for this neighborhood.

Thank you.

On behalf of Climate Pierce County,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mytpu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-mar-13-water-integrated-resource-plan-regular-meeting.pdf>, p.

20

2

<https://tacomaequitymap.caimaps.info/CAILive/?location=Tacoma&layer=EquityLayer&tab=demo&searchType=city&area=EquityCalcTacoma>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tacomatreeplan.org/post/supporting-studies-maps>

Dr. Elly Claus-McGahan, CCL-Tacoma

Donna Thompson, Climate Reality Project

Evlondo Cooper, Tacoma DSA

Marian Berijikian, FOPC

Lucinda Wingard, KGI Watershed

Pete Weymiller, climate activist.

**From:** [Heidi S.](#)  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Cc:** [Wung, Lihuang](#); [Harala, Larry](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Feb. 16th Planning Commission Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 5:19:47 PM

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Please submit as public comment for the Feb. 16, 2022 Planning Commission meeting, regarding this agenda item:

F. Discussion Items

1. 2022 Annual Amendment

Description: Continue to review the 2022 Amendment Package, focusing on the applications of "Work Plan for South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Code Amendments" and "Minor Plan and Code Amendments."

I support moving forward, for public review, the draft work plan for the "South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District" as the first phase of the "South Tacoma Economic Green Zone" proposal.

Thank you,  
Heidi Stephens

**From:** [pweymiller@aol.com](mailto:pweymiller@aol.com)  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** public comment for 2-16-22 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:47:07 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Please include this comment for the planning commission's 2-16-22 meeting.

Pete

Hi, my name is Pete Weymiller and I am a member of several local climate advocacy groups, including Climate Pierce County.

Thank you for stepping up to be one of Tacoma's heroes in leading the city through the climate crisis it declared!

And thank you for your efforts to put Tacoma ahead of the curve in renewable energy innovations, so that we're not left behind the other big cities again.

But much more needs to be done. This is a defining moment where we must accept the direction from the evidence offered by the best available science. Please do more to reduce the carbon footprint from Tacoma, and more to reduce the air pollution released from burning fossil fuels.

The advice from the authorized global experts warn that significant and urgent action is required to contain climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group offer undisputable evidence of the costly damage we've already experienced from climate change and much worse without transformational action in the next 8 years.

Four years ago our national security leaders warned that climate change was our country's biggest security threat. This was before we experienced the heat-dome last summer, and choking wildfire smoke the summer before. This warning was made before more dire predictions were last year by the IPCC and sobering evidence reported last month about dwindling local fresh water reserves created by climate change.

Greenhouse gas inventories point to transportation as a leading source of climate-changing gases in our region, and the Department of Ecology lists transportation as one of the largest sources of local toxic air pollutants. And the volume of transportation is increasing with the new residents arriving every day.

Transition to clean and renewable transportation is inevitable. We are witnessing historical state and federal legislation that will transform the power source for our economy and our transportation. Most car-makers have seen the writing on the wall and companies like Ford and GM have committed to a complete transition to manufacturing vehicles that run on renewable energy.

Please do not let the greater Tacoma area get left behind again in investing in transportation infrastructure to relieve traffic congestion. And please increase the renewable energy infrastructure, especially that for mass transit which is most effective at preventing future congestion, reducing carbon, and addressing environmental justice.

And in you planning please do not consider natural gas as "clean energy". A recent study by Stanford University provides peer-reviewed evidence that using natural gas is much more toxic and warms our planet faster than earlier studies showed.

Please do the right thing for Tacoma right now and for future generations.

Thanks for your time,  
Pete Weymiller