

City Hall
555 Israel Road SW
Tumwater, WA 98501-6515
Phone: 360-754-5855
Fax: 360-754-4126

December 9, 2013

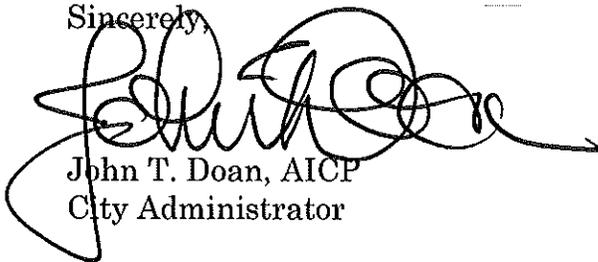
Alice Kelly, Regional Planner
Department of Ecology
NW Regional Office
3190 – 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Dear Ms. Kelly:

In November, the Tumwater City Council approved Resolution R2013-015 regarding the proposed coal train facilities and coal transport facilities on Puget Sound. I have attached a copy of the resolution with the intent that it will inform your decision making as you review permit proposals related to coal train operations and terminals.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John T. Doan, AICP
City Administrator

Cc: Mayor Pete Kmet

RESOLUTION NO. R2013-015

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington regarding the negative impacts of coal trains and the construction of coal mining export facilities in the Pacific Northwest.

WHEREAS, coal mining, processing, transport and combustion creates negative human and environmental health impacts; and

WHEREAS, mining and burning coal releases harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, accelerating climate warming, and resulting in such impacts as reduced snowpack, ocean acidification, increased flooding, summer droughts, loss of habitat, detrimental agricultural impacts, and increased forest fires; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has recognized the negative economic, public health, and environmental impacts of climate change on this state, per Chapter 80.80 RCW and Executive Order No. 0905; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that a single new coal export terminal in Western Washington, such as the Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point, would have a build-out export volume of approximately 50 million tons of coal per year and could result in an increase in coal train traffic of at least 9 additional trains per day along regional rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, coal is commonly transported via open-top rail cars that spread coal dust and chunks of coal that negatively impacts air, soil and water quality; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the coal destined for Gateway Pacific Terminal will travel via uncovered rail cars through dozens of Washington communities including communities in Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tumwater recognizes that it is unlikely that coal trains will directly utilize rail corridors within our municipal boundaries but will likely be transported through surrounding communities, many of which regionally contribute to the vibrant economy and high quality of life in south Puget Sound through farming and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, several surrounding communities have already opposed development of coal terminals in the Pacific Northwest that would bring coal trains through their cities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, many communities, not directly impacted by coal trains, have called on the Washington State Department of Ecology, Whatcom County and other relevant regulatory bodies to fully and carefully assess, evaluate and disclose the impacts of the siting of a coal terminal or similar proposed facilities in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has been a national leader in creating clean energy jobs and promoting sustainable global economic development, while coal export continues to prompt harmful and unsustainable energy development practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Tumwater supports economic growth that is consistent with Washington State's commitment to fight serious impacts of climate change; and

Section 2. The City of Tumwater calls on the Washington State Department of Ecology, Whatcom County and other relevant regulatory bodies to fully and carefully assess, evaluate and disclose the impacts any and all proposed coal terminals or similar proposed facilities in the State of Washington.

Section 3. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. Severability. The provisions of this Resolution are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this Resolution or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Resolution, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature as provided by law.

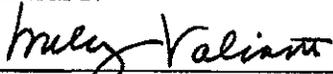
RESOLVED this 19th day of Nov., 2013.

CITY OF TUMWATER

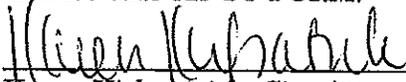


Pete Kmet, Mayor

ATTEST:


Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney

Resolution No. R2013-015 –