

Tri-Cities Shoreline Reconveyance Input (as of July, 2018):

Joint letter from Cities of Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and West Richland, Benton and Franklin Counties

City of West Richland

City of Pasco

Port of Kennewick

Tri-City Herald (Editorials)

TRIDEC

Washington State Legislators (Sens. Sharon Brown and Mike Hewitt, Reps. Terry Nealey, Larry Haler and Maureen Walsh)

Port of Pasco

Tri-City Water Follies

Washington State University Tri-Cities

Visit TRI-CITIES

Benton Public Utility District No. 1

Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce

City of Richland

Franklin County

Tri-City Association of Realtors

Benton County

Pasco Chamber of Commerce

City of Kennewick

Ron & Doreen Williams

Mr. W. Thomas Cooper

Ms. Heidi A. Cooper

Budd & Linda Eggers

Mr. Scott Petersen

Mr. William D. Taylor



April 17, 2018

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Representative Dan Newhouse

RE: Re-conveyance of Rivershore Property

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell and Representative Newhouse:

Re-conveyance of the Rivershore back to local community control is a project that is very important and impacts all of the Tri-Cities. In 2012 The Tri-Cities, through the Tri-Cities Rivershore Enhancement Council (TREC) issued a final **Tri-Cities Rivershore Master Plan** that had been in development starting with a Rivershore inventory study in 2009. All four cities, three ports, two counties, Visit Tri-Cities and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) were active participants in developing this Master Plan.

In this Master Plan, the community envisions a Rivershore that connects the region, provides recreational and economic opportunities, and increases environmentally responsive access to the Columbia River. Our region, like so many others across the United States, has turned its back on its Rivershore for decades. Now our community is in the midst of turning around, facing and embracing this incredible resource through a mixture of multi-use trails, open spaces, offices, restaurants and retail opportunities.

Above all, the Tri-Cities Rivershore should be a place where the community can live, work and play; rather than being a place to turn away from. It could be an area where residents and visitors can regularly engage. A series of active and passive public spaces could provide places to ride bikes, meet friends, hold events, or watch wildlife. Large open public spaces along the river would be better maintained. Signage and wayfinding can increase visibility and access to the Rivershore trail, and provide opportunities to explore new areas in the region. Amenities such as shelters and seating, bike and canoe rental shops, offices, commercial and residential development could provide destination points along the Rivershore. The community's vision for the Tri-Cities Rivershore could be accomplished through a combination of public and private redevelopment and improvement efforts.

However, to fulfill the objectives of the Rivershore Master Plan, some 34 miles of Columbia River waterfront must be returned to our community through re-conveyance of land held by the USACE for the past 70 years.

The USACE took ownership of much of the Tri-City Rivershore in the 1940's and 1950's in the wake of significant flood events. Since then, several additional dams have been constructed upstream and downstream of the Tri-Cities, providing much greater control of the river.

Through no fault of the USACE due to a lack of funding for maintenance, the entire Rivershore has become overgrown with weeds and invasive trees and shrubs. All maintenance currently done in the parks on both sides of the river are paid for entirely by our three cities, amounting to around \$2 million each year.

Returning these once private and publicly held properties to local control is frankly the only way to improve what our community views as 'our front door' and make the Rivershore vibrant.

We strongly support Congressional legislation which will re-convey the Columbia Rivershore back to our community. Several studies have been conducted since the mid 1980's (culminating in the Tri-Cities Rivershore Master Plan of 2012), and they have all shown tremendous benefits to our community and to the entire State of Washington that could be realized with these properties under local control. Conversely, based on the experience of the Tri-Cities over the past few decades, with its flood control mission in the Tri-Cities no longer necessary, we can see no benefit to the Federal Government for retaining these properties any longer. We would, however, look forward to coordinating closely with USACE to ensure a smooth transition of the shoreline management.

With this letter we ask your support for Congressional legislation that will return the Columbia Rivershore running through the Tri-Cities, back to our local communities.

Sincerely,



Jerome Delvin, Chairman
Benton County Commissioners



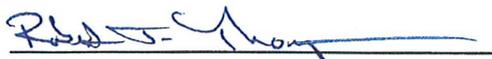
Brad Peck, Chairman
Franklin County Commissioners



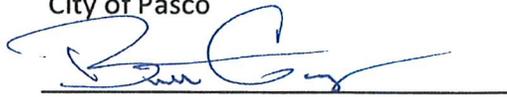
Don Britain, Mayor
City of Kennewick



Matt Watkins, Mayor
City of Pasco



Robert Thompson, Mayor
City of Richland



Brent Gerry, Mayor
City of West Richland



3801 W. Van Giesen Street * West Richland, WA 99353 * www.westrichland.org
Office of the Mayor (509) 967-3431 FAX (509) 967-5706

March 12, 2018

Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Dan Newhouse

RE: Re-conveyance of Columbia River shore properties

Dear Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray and Representative Newhouse:

The Tri-Cities has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, from the creation of the Manhattan Project in 1943, to the protection of the Tri-Cities during the great flood of 1948, to the construction of several dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The Corps has been responsible for some 34 miles of Columbia River shoreline for the past 69 to 70 years. It is well-recognized that the Corps itself has little or no funding for maintenance of these properties. Local communities themselves have supported the several parks on both sides of the river, on land owned by the Corps. This support is costing the communities some \$2 million annually.

A number of studies conducted since the early 1980's have all demonstrated that the riverfront properties running through these communities are some of the most underutilized and under-maintained urban properties in the State of Washington.

The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contained language directing the Corps of Engineers to provide a description of the properties the Corps holds along both sides of the Columbia River. With these property descriptions in hand, our local communities have an opportunity to determine exactly what property the Corps owns, and what was paid for these properties.

The real point of requesting re-conveyance of these properties back to local communities, is to eliminate the burden of federal costs to control and maintain these properties, while opening the riverfront to greatly increased public access for recreation and needed improvements to existing parks.

The City of West Richland strongly encourages Congressional language which will transfer these properties back to our Tri-Cities community. Our residents will then have better access to what is said to be the 'crown jewel' of these communities – the Columbia River waterfront.

We ask for your support of Congressional language supporting this re-conveyance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Gerry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brent" being more prominent than the last name "Gerry".

Brent Gerry
West Richland Mayor

June 20, 2017

Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Dan Newhouse

RE: Re-conveyance of Rivershore Property

Dear Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray and Representative Newhouse:

The Tri-Cities has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, from the creation of the Manhattan Project in 1943, to the protection of the Tri-Cities during the flood of 1948.

Today, however, it is well recognized that the Corps of Engineers lacks sufficient funding to support maintenance of the levees, parks, and pathways along the Columbia Rivershore running through the Tri-Cities and, more specifically, fronting public and privately-held properties adjoining the Columbia River in Pasco.

A number of studies conducted since the early 1980s have demonstrated that the riverfront properties running along the Columbia through all three of the Tri-Cities are some of the most underutilized and under-maintained urban properties in the state.

With the passage of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which contained language directing the Corps of Engineers to provide a description of the properties the Corps holds along both sides of the Columbia River, our community, the City of Pasco, looks forward to working with your offices to have these properties re-conveyed from the federal government to local governments.

This re-conveyance should prove to be of positive economic benefit to both the federal government, and to local government bodies; reducing operating costs to the federal government, while bringing these properties under local control.

Where a small amount of riverfront property has been returned to local control (such as Osprey Point in Pasco, which is now under the Port of Pasco) the property and grounds have been greatly improved, turning unsightly and unkempt property into a crown jewel in which the entire community can take great pride. Osprey Point is a perfect example of what can be done with local control and public and private partnerships.

The conditions under which a re-conveyance of these federal lands to local government control have yet to be worked out in detail. The City of Pasco does, however, endorse the re-conveyance of rivershore property held by the Corps of Engineers that runs along some 34 miles of the Tri-Cities, and looks forward to working out the details of such a transaction. We ask your support for this re-conveyance.

Sincerely,



Matt Watkins
Mayor

MW/tlz

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Matt Watkins, Mayor.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Rebecca Francik, Mike Garrison, Tom Larsen, Saul Martinez, Matt Watkins and Al Yenney. Excused: Robert Hoffmann.

Staff present: Dave Zabell, City Manager; Stan Strebel, Deputy City Manager; Leland Kerr, City Attorney; Richard Terway, Administrative & Community Services Director; Rick White, Community & Economic Development Director; Ahmad Qayoumi, Public Works Director; Bob Metzger, Police Chief and Bob Gear, Fire Chief.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Pasco City Council Meeting dated March 7, 2016.

Bills and Communications

To approve claims in the total amount of \$2,454,974.01 (\$1,157,774.63 in Check Nos. 208750-208972; \$686,434.44 in Electronic Transfer Nos. 809496-809500, 809503, 809617-809621; \$29,190.15 in Check Nos. 49008-49031; \$572,621.40 in Electronic Transfer Nos. 30091933-30092400; \$8,953.39 in Electronic Transfer Nos. 231-233).

To approve bad debt write-off for Utility Billing, Ambulance, Cemetery, General Accounts, Miscellaneous Accounts, and Municipal Court (non-criminal, criminal, and parking) accounts receivable in the total amount of \$294,064.18 and, of that amount, authorize \$211,613.33 be turned over for collection.

Fire and Ambulance Medical Services Program Master Plan

To approve the contract with Emergency Services Consulting International for the Fire and Ambulance Medical Services Program Master Plan, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

Interlocal Agreement for Economic Development Services

To approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Pasco for Economic Development Services and, further, authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement.

Financial Support for Legal Work on Possible Turnback of USACE Lands to Cities

To authorize \$1,000 for Pasco's share of the cost of writing legislation requesting turn back of federal land to local governments.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR (509) 545-3404 / Fax (509) 545-3403

P. O. Box 293, 525 N. 3rd Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301

December 14, 2015

Steve Young, Mayor
City of Kennewick
PO Box 6108
Kennewick, WA 99336

Re: City of Kennewick Resolution No. 15-23 Conceptual Conveyance of Columbia Park to the City of Kennewick

Dear Mayor Young:

The City of Pasco has taken notice of Kennewick's desire to pursue the conveyance of Columbia Park from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the City of Kennewick. This is to state the City of Pasco's support for the concept of the transfer of USACE lands, along the Columbia River, to such local governmental units as wish to pursue acquisition.

If the City can be of any assistance in your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me or City Manager Dave Zabell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Watkins", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Watkins
Mayor



PORT KENNEWICK

COMMISSIONERS | DON BARNES | THOMAS MOAK | SKIP NOVAKOVICH

August 9, 2016

Mr. Brad Fisher
272 Adair Drive
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Doc Hastings
7319 Columbia River Road
Pasco, WA 99301

Mr. Gary Peterson
238 Summerset
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Gentlemen:

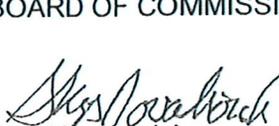
Thank you for your presentation to the Port Commission on June 28, 2016 related to the potential rivershore transfer of lands from the federal government to local jurisdictions. We agree with you that this is an important community issue.

We appreciate your discussion related to the question of how much development the public would support if lands were transferred, the type of development such as condos and commercial development, and even whether the public would be supportive of the tribal casino which you mentioned in your presentation. We applaud you for asking these questions and we support a full community discussion including meaningful dialog with local tribes, who we believe are very concerned about lands being transferred out of federal ownership because that may result in the loss of their reserved treaty rights and protection of tribal resources. Finally, we appreciate your efforts to gain Senator Murray's support which we feel is critical to this process.

Again, thank you for your outreach to the port.

Sincerely,

PORT OF KENNEWICK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Skip Novakovich
President


Thomas Moak
Vice President


Don Barnes
Secretary

Cc: Gary Burke, BOT Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Dave Tovey, Executive Director, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
LTC Damon A. Delarosa, District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

EDITORIAL

Headlines we would like to see in 2018

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

**Ground breaks at Vista Field,
Dupontail Bridge**

Southeast Internet Crimes Against Children
Task Force runs out
of perps, disbands

**Secretary Mattis-spotting becomes a
full-time Tri-City obsession**

Mariners set for playoff opener; Super Bowl
champ Seahawks will throw out first pitch

**Midterm elections center on ideas,
not mudslinging**

Kennewick to remodel Toyota Center, no new
taxes needed. Americans thrilled

**So many fish, you could walk across the
Columbia on their backs**

Richland rolls back car tab fees after
bridge project comes in under budget

**Congress returns Columbia River shoreline
to Tri-City control**

Supreme Court issues baker ruling,
Arlene's case declared over

**Benton County breaks ground on
mental health addition at jail**

FACEBOOK.COM/TRICITYHERALD1 • TWITTER.COM/TRICITYHERALD

EDITORIAL

Rivershore effort deserves unified support

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Tri-City efforts to gain control of the Columbia River shoreline have fluctuated for decades, but this latest attempt appears to have a force behind it we have not seen before.

We hope that makes a difference, and that this time the struggle is successful.

Former U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Pasco, former Kennewick Mayor Brad Fisher and Gary Petersen of the Tri-City Development Council are trying to gather communitywide support for legislation that would direct the Army Corps of Engineers to return 34 miles of shoreline to the Tri-Cities.

The spark re-ignited, according

to Fisher, two years ago when U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., attended the dedication of the Reach center at Columbia Park. Fisher said he asked Murray about returning the rivershore to local control.

She reportedly encouraged the community to unite behind a plan she could consider. So with that, Fisher, Hastings and Petersen have been pushing to make that happen.

They have been meeting with as many local government representatives and community leaders as possible. They also have enlisted the help of Hastings's successor Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., and hope he will be able to push through a bill that would allow the shoreline to be transferred legislatively, and not through the compli-

cated review process the Corps already has in place.

The waterfront is typically the main attraction in communities fortunate enough to have one. But ours may be the most under-utilized shoreline in the country.

The Corps acquired the Tri-City riverfront 68 years ago and built levees in response to the devastating flood of 1948. Since then, nine Columbia River dams have been built upstream — six in the U.S. and three in Canada. With these dams in place, the chance of another catastrophic flood is nonexistent, according to Petersen and the rest of the group.

So Corps oversight really isn't necessary anymore.

In addition, the Tri-Cities spends about \$2 million maintaining some of the Corps-owned

property anyway. More improvements could be made, however, if the community had authority to make them. Fisher said Kennewick officials can't even replace dead trees without getting Corps approval first.

If the communities had control of the shoreline, recreational opportunities could be vastly improved, Fisher said. There also could be some light development along the river to offset maintenance costs.

But this idea has caused some rumblings in the community by citizens worried the riverfront could end up lined with condos and hotels.

That would be a travesty. Any kind of venture along the river should ensure public access to the water and protect as much open

space as possible.

But that improved access will never happen as long as the Corps is in charge of the property. The federal agency typically restricts access rather than encourages it.

Hastings said the time is right for the Tri-Cities to push for the land transfer now because Congress seems more receptive to the idea of turning federal lands over to local control. The U.S. Department of Energy, for example, transferred more than 1,300 Hanford acres to Tri-City officials at no cost last year. Transferring the shoreline from the Corps could be modeled in the same way.

The potential along the shoreline is untapped, and momentum is building for local control. It's time for the community to be in charge of its best asset.

TC Herald
07/15/15

OUR VOICE

Time for Corps to return riverfront lands to city

One of the biggest assets our community has is miles of riverfront. It's also one of our greatest weaknesses.

For a city with this much water frontage, we are sorely lacking in activities and attractions along the shoreline.

When you visit another city next to water, that's where you are drawn — restaurants, recreational activities, shopping, people-watching, idling away a sunny afternoon with friends on a deck with a view.

We have a great trail system along the water's edge, and Columbia Point gives us a glimpse at what could be someday with its hotels, restaurants, marina and recreational pursuits.

But the Tri-Cities has been unable to pursue that opportunity because the federal government owns the riverfront. And that makes everything so much more complicated.

Development has been stalled over the years because it's too hard to work with the Army Corps of Engineers.

As a result, we have miles of shore but few ways to enjoy them other than on foot or bicycle.

The city of Kennewick is taking another run at waterfront development, seeking local control of a part of Columbia Park. The city already operates and maintains Columbia Park but must do so within the confines of an agreement with the Corps. It costs the city about \$500,000 to maintain the park each year, but restrictions on use limit the city's ability to generate revenue to help offset those costs.

Kennewick believes light de-

velopment like a restaurant would go a long way toward underwriting annual park operations. But it can't realistically develop the park without local control and ownership. The city is not envisioning a shoreline covered in commercial development, just the kind of amenities that complement the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that come with waterfront property.

If the Corps agrees to convey the 60 acres back to the city, it will require an environmental and archaeological study. The cost of both will be borne by Kennewick. The city would pay the appraised value of the land, and the whole process could take years. We applaud Kennewick for taking the initiative and taking on what we know will be a daunting task.

The Corps should work to expedite the process and return the land to the public. The Corps took the land following a historic flood in the late 1940s and erected the levies to protect residents against future flooding. Since then, dams have been built and flood control measures have made the levies, and Corps oversight unnecessary.

Turning over ownership to local governments is the right thing for the Tri-Cities, not just Kennewick. There are costs and risks involved in the long path ahead and the city is currently seeking ownership of all Corps property. That's a measured approach to the opportunity. We hope Pasco, Richland and our two counties will follow Kennewick's lead and at least consider the value of pursuing local ownership of Corps lands.



7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Ste. A
Kennewick, WA 99336-7725

(509) 735-1000
TryTri-Cities.org

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

TRIDEC has supported Tri-City community efforts to enhance our Columbia River shoreline, and gain more flexibility for local community's use of that shoreline, dating back to 1988.

It was in 1988 that TRIDEC supported what was one of the first studies of potential benefits of making better use of the riverfront property going through our community. This early study was conducted by Naramore, Bain, Brady and Johansen of Seattle. Their report clearly identified how underutilized the entire shoreline is, and how improvements could be made that would greatly improve public access to the river and increase recreational uses.

Clearly the Corps of Engineers has done some amazing things in our community dating back to 1943; from building Hanford as part of the Manhattan Project, to protecting our community from floods. The Corps' primary purpose in gaining control of the Columbia River shoreline was for flood protection. Since the last major flood to impact the community in 1948, six dams have been constructed upstream from the Tri-Cities in the U.S., as well as three dams in British Columbia, all but eliminating any threats of future floods.

Similar to the recent release of 1641 acres of Hanford property back to the community; TRIDEC feels the time is right to return the roughly 34 miles of Columbia River shoreline (levees, parks and easements), back to local government control. This transfer will require Congressional support to re-convey these properties back to the communities with little or no cost.

This letter is in support of our community's effort for the reconveyance of property and easements along the Columbia River and running through the Tri-Cities that has been held by the Corps of Engineers through the past 68 years. Local government entities can then work through zoning requirements to determine the best uses of the properties, and how these properties can be improved for beneficial local uses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl F. Adrian".

Carl F. Adrian
President/CEO





7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Ste. A
Kennewick, WA 99336-7725

(509) 735-1000
TryTri-Cities.org

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Carl F. Adrian
President/CEO





7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Ste. A
Kennewick, WA 99336-7725

(509) 735-1000
TryTri-Cities.org

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
United States House of Representatives
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

TRIDEC has supported Tri-City community efforts to enhance our Columbia River shoreline, and gain more flexibility for local community's use of that shoreline, dating back to 1988.

It was in 1988 that TRIDEC supported what was one of the first studies of potential benefits of making better use of the riverfront property going through our community. This early study was conducted by Naramore, Bain, Brady and Johansen of Seattle. Their report clearly identified how underutilized the entire shoreline is, and how improvements could be made that would greatly improve public access to the river and increase recreational uses.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl F. Adrian".

Carl F. Adrian
President/CEO





Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

Washington State Senate

Phone: (360) 786-7550
FAX: (360) 786-1999

April 18, 2016

Honorable Dan Newhouse
United States House of Representatives
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse,

With this letter we request the support of your offices to sponsor legislation directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to return, to the Tri-Cities community, land it acquired 68 years ago.

Your local staffs have been fully briefed on this issue. Our community feels that now is the time to ask for Congressional support and action to resolve this long-standing and difficult situation. The Washington State Legislature attempted to address this issue in its most recent legislative session, and determined fairly quickly that this issue can only be resolved with federal, not state, legislation.

During the great Columbia River flood of 1948 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took some 34 miles of shoreline property on both sides of the Columbia River from private and public owners. Pasco and Franklin County gave up 16 miles, while Richland, Kennewick and Benton County gave up 18 miles. The Corps built 14 foot high dikes on both sides of the river to protect public and private properties from further or future flood damage. Where dikes were not necessary because of the slope of the property, the Corps still acquired property extending back some 300 feet from the operating pool of the river.

There has not been a major flood of the Columbia River since 1948. This in part is because nine Columbia River dams were built upstream of the Tri-Cities between 1955 and 1984 (list attached). Six of these are in the U.S., and three are in British Columbia, Canada. In addition, three dams were also built downstream of the Tri-Cities.

The reason for mentioning these 12 dams is that the likelihood of a flood of any significance is extremely small; let alone one equaling the great flood of 1948 – or an even larger flood of record that happened in 1894 and is described by the Corps of Engineers as the Standard Project Flood (SPF) for the Columbia River. There were NO dams on the Columbia River in 1894! All 12 dams were constructed with flood control as one of their primary objectives. Other missions for these dams included irrigation, recreation, and navigation with shipping locks on dams below the Tri-Cities. The height of the dikes through the Tri-Cities extends more than 12 feet above the maximum water levels experienced for the past 50 years.

While land may have been taken from the public domain by the Corps of Engineers primarily for flood control, it is unclear why the Corps continues to control the levees and 300 feet of land on both sides of the McNary Pool reservoir running through the Tri-Cities when there is now extremely minimal risk of flooding. It is our contention that the Corps has no public policy reason for continued federal possession of these properties.

Our communities have financially supported the land currently under the control of the Corp of Engineers for some four decades, including maintenance of roads and publicly accessible parks in those areas. The Cities of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland are paying some \$1.4 million annually for operations and maintenance of the parks, and pathways on the levees. O&M costs for these parks are not being supported by the Corps.

The Tri-Cities community formed a Rivershore Beautification Committee in 1986. Soon after this committee was revitalized by Visit Tri-Cities as the Tri-Cities Rivershore Enhancement Council (TREC), which is the recognized council for shoreline enhancement and projects to this day. During its 30 year history TREC, representing numerous community groups, has paid for several studies on how the Tri-Cities could best take advantage of the natural beauty of the shoreline on both sides of the river to enhance the economy of the region. Each study has clearly stated that the shoreline along both sides of the Columbia is one of our region's best, and most underutilized, assets!

Since 1988 our communities have worked with the Corps of Engineers on everything from lowering the unnecessary dikes, to gaining support and approval for more recreational and economic use of these properties. There has been community frustration in working with the Corps because when Corps leadership changes about every two years. Governance and oversight by the Corps has not always been consistent through these leadership transitions. And, while the community leaders have remained somewhat constant, starting the discussion with Corps commanders anew every two or three years is troublesome at best.

These properties were acquired by the Corps with little or very little or no financial remuneration to property owners in the three cities, and therefore we feel they should be returned to our communities without monetary consideration.

With this letter, we the undersigned encourage Congressional action and legislation that will return control of these Columbia River shore properties to the local cities. City councils will be able then to work openly with the general public in determining zoning requirements and restrictions, for the best public use of these properties.

Sincerely,



Senator Sharon Brown



Representative Terry Nealey



Representative Maureen Walsh



Senator Mike Hewitt



Representative Larry Haler

RESOLUTION NO. 1429

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT OF PASCO, SUPPORTING RECONVEYANCE OF FEDERALLY-OWNED LANDS ALONG THE COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, most of the Columbia River shoreline and some of the lower Snake River shoreline in the Tri-Cities Region was expropriated from local public and private ownership and placed into federal ownership after the floods of 1948 and subsequent construction of the McNary and John Day Dam projects; and,

WHEREAS, after several decades, management of the Columbia River is now a refined practice that has changed the hydrology of the rivers such that its flow is generally static, predictable and not subject to the threats of dynamic fluctuations; and,

WHEREAS, there is a sense in the Tri-Cities Region that local ownership and control over these shore lands would improve opportunities for economic development and enhanced recreational use; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of Pasco is engaged in the economic development of our region and owns property adjacent to the federally appropriated shore lands that could benefit by local control; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of Pasco finds the time appropriate for detailed discussions about the long-term ownership of Rivershore area and is ready to assist local efforts in these discussions with local, state, tribal and federal partners and stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Pasco supports the efforts to re-convey to local ownership the lands acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers within that area of the Columbia and Snake River shoreline commonly defined as the Tri-Cities; and that such reconveyance also include the release of property easements and other deed restrictions, such as, but not limited to, flowage easements and occupancy restrictions.

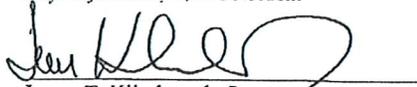
BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be immediately transmitted to the state of Washington's Congressional delegation.

ADOPTED this 14th day of April, 2016

PORT OF PASCO COMMISSIONERS


Ronald P. Reimann, President


Jean Ryckman, Vice President


James T. Klindworth, Secretary



April 4, 2016

Mr. Brad Fisher
1333 Columbia Park Trail, Suite 120
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Fisher,

RE: SUPPORTING THE RECONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LANDS

Thank you for attending the Tri-City Water Follies Association's April Board of Directors Meeting. As stakeholders in the welfare of Columbia Park Kennewick and Wade Park Pasco, we are very interested in the information provided by you and Doc Hastings regarding the lands reconveyance to our community.

We greatly appreciate the efforts you and your partners have put forth on this project. I am pleased to report that the Tri-City Water Follies Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt a motion supporting reconveyance of federal lands currently managed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, back to the local community.

We are confident that if the 34 miles of Columbia River shoreline between Pasco and Kennewick under consideration can be reconveyed back to our community, there will be significant recreational opportunities for the entire Tri-Cities region.

If we can be of further assistance or provide additional support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kathy Powell
Event Director

Cc: Doc Hastings

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

The Washington State University Tri-City campus submits to you this letter of strong support for the transference of 38 miles of riverfront land from federal management to the Tri-City community.

In 1948, conditions in the Columbia River warranted federal involvement to protect the community from damage caused by flooding waters. Some 38 miles of riverfront land was conveyed from the community to the Army Corp of Engineers. Throughout the years, dams have been built and water management have changed the Columbia River into a stable waterway. The need for federal involvement and management have long-since expired. Further, the management of the land has not been performed in a way that complements the community and encourages economic value and growth.

Now is the time for the land to be transferred to the community for development, management and improvement. The significance of having this land as part of the economic future for this community is measurable and substantial. Our riverfront holds the key to our community image, tourism, commercial and residential development, as well as, the maintenance of natural habitat that captures our history.

As an industry leader in the Greater Tri-City Region, this association encourages all those who are stakeholders and overseers to support this great effort. This land was once ours and we feel it's time to return it to the community where it will become the asset it should be.

Sincerely,



H. Keith Moo-Young, Ph.D., P.E.
Chancellor



P.O. Box 2241
Tri-Cities, WA 99302-2241
509-735-8486
1-800-254-5824
www.VisitTRI-CITIES.com

March 24, 2016

Mr. Brad Fisher
1333 Columbia Park Trail, Suite 120
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Tri-Cities Regional Land Re-Conveyance

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for taking time to address Visit Tri-Cities' Board of Directors at our March Board meeting. As result of the information provided by you, Mr. Hastings and Mr. Adrian; the board members had a meaningful and engaging discussion about land re-conveyance to our community.

We greatly appreciate the efforts you and your partners have put forth on this project. I am pleased to report that the Visit Tri-Cities' Board of Directors voted by majority to adopt a motion supporting re-conveyance of federal lands, currently owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, back to the local community.

We are confident that if the 34 miles of shoreline under consideration can be re-conveyed back to our community, there will be significant economic development and enhanced recreational opportunities for the entire Tri-Cities region.

If we can be of further assistance or provide additional support, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Watkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "W".

Kris Watkins
President & CEO

cc: Doc Hastings, Former U.S. Congressman
Carl Adrian, TRIDEC

RESOLUTION NO. 2361

March 24, 2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION OF BENTON PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BENTON COUNTY, SUPPORTING RE-CONVEYANCE OF OWNERSHIP OF FEDERALLY-OWNED LANDS ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, most of the Columbia River shoreline and some of the lower Yakima River shoreline in the Tri-Cities Region was expropriated from local public and private ownership and placed into federal ownership after the floods of 1948 and subsequent construction of the McNary and John Day Dam projects; and,

WHEREAS, after several decades, management of the Columbia River is now a refined practice that has changed the hydrology of the rivers such that its flow is generally static, predictable and not subject to the threats of dynamic fluctuations; and,

WHEREAS, there is a sense in the Tri-Cities Region that local ownership and control over these shore lands would improve opportunities for economic development and enhanced recreational use; and

WHEREAS, Benton PUD finds the time appropriate for detailed discussions about the long-term ownership of Rivershore area;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Benton PUD urges all local governments and stakeholders to come together regarding administration and ownership of federally-owned rivershore lands along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers in the Tri-Cities Region and the long-term future of that administration and ownership. Benton PUD strongly supports these efforts.

BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to all local municipalities in the Tri-Cities Region, the state of Washington's Congressional delegation and others as appropriate.


Lori Kays-Sanders, President

ATTEST:


Jeffrey D. Hall, Secretary



RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-CITY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTING CONVEYANCE OF OWNERSHIP OF FEDERALLY-OWNED LANDS ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, most of the Columbia River shoreline and some of the lower Yakima River shoreline in the Tri-Cities Region was expropriated from local public and private ownership and placed into federal ownership after the floods of 1948 and subsequent construction of the McNary and John Day Dam projects; and,

WHEREAS, after several decades, management of the Columbia River is now a refined practice that has changed the hydrology of the rivers such that its flow is generally static, predictable and not subject to the threats of dynamic fluctuations; and,

WHEREAS, there is a sense in the Tri-Cities Region that local ownership and control over these shore lands would improve opportunities for economic development and enhanced recreational use; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest economic development organization in the Tri-Cities, serving as the voice of the business community to promote regional prosperity and strengthen member businesses through advocacy, leadership and innovative business programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce finds the time appropriate for detailed discussions about the long-term ownership of Rivershore area and is ready to assist local efforts in these discussions with local, state, tribal and federal partners and stakeholders;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce urges all local governments and stakeholders to come together and convene formal discussions with the appropriate federal land management agency – meaning the United States Army Corps of Engineers – regarding administration and ownership of federally-owned rivershore lands along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers in the Tri-Cities Region and the long-term future of that administration and ownership. The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce strongly supports these efforts and is eager to assist as needed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to all local municipalities in the Tri-Cities Region, the state of Washington's Congressional delegation and the appropriate leaders at the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Conger".

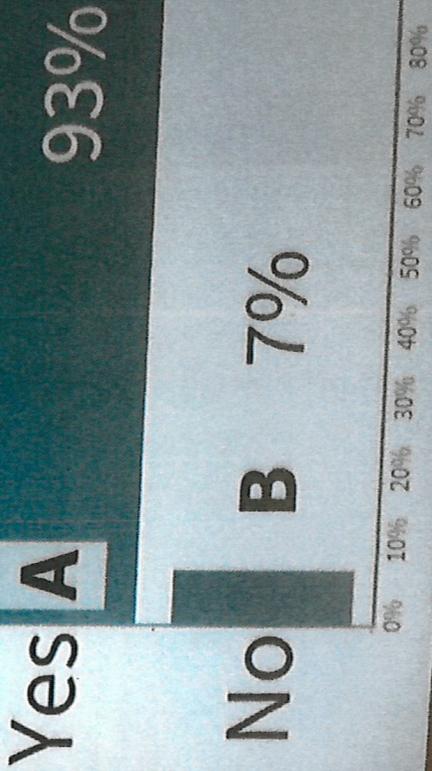
Marty Conger, Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Mattson".

Lori Mattson, President & CEO

Do you believe the 34 miles of Columbia River Shoreline running through Tri-Cities should be returned to local control?

Respond at PollEv.com/tcrcc or Text TCRCC to 22333 once to join, then A or B



TRICITY REGIONAL VISIONARY MEMBERS

TRICITY REGIONAL VISIONARY MEMBERS

TRICITY REGIONAL VISIONARY MEMBERS

TRICITY REGIONAL VISIONARY MEMBERS

TRICITY REGIONAL VISIONARY MEMBERS

TRICITY REGIONAL VISIONARY MEMBERS



RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL, MS-04

Telephone (509) 942-7381

Fax (509) 942-7379

PO BOX 190 • RICHLAND, WA 99352 • CI.RICHLAND.WA.US

February 26, 2016

Mr. Brad Fisher
RBC Wealth Management
1333 Columbia Park Trail, Suite 120
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Transfer of Federal Land

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for meeting recently with City and Visit Tri-Cities representatives regarding your interest in pursuing a transfer of federal land along the Columbia River managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Also in attendance at the meeting supporting the initiative was TRIDEC and former representative Hastings.

Richland has pursued a similar effort in the past and the result was the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. WRDA 96 provides a mechanism for local governments in the Tri-Cities to obtain ownership of Corps property for both recreation and commercial purposes. It is our understanding that your initiative intends to create a blanket transfer of applicable Corps land, including flood control levees and various supporting drainage ways and utility infrastructure, so as to place the management of Tri-Cities shorelines into local control.

The transfer of property at this scale is an impressive undertaking and one that should be fully vetted by our local community including a risk and reward analysis. A proper review of the proposal will understandably take time, and to that end, we support other local governments that are currently pursuing such a transfer and remain steady to consider the details of the idea as it pertains to the City of Richland as you can make them available. We look forward to the dialogue.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2016 070

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY,
WASHINGTON

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF CONVEYANCE OF OWNERSHIP OF FEDERALLY-
OWNED LANDS ALONG THE COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS TO LOCAL
OWNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, most of the Columbia River shoreline and some of the Snake River shoreline in Franklin County was expropriated from local private and public ownership by the federal government following the floods of 1948 and subsequent construction of the McNary and John Day dam projects; and,

WHEREAS, several decades of Columbia and Snake River flow control experience has produced generally static, predictable river levels no longer subject to threat of dynamic fluctuations; and,

WHEREAS, local ownership and control of these shorelines would improve economic development and recreational opportunities for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, we believe the timing is appropriate for detailed discussions about the long-term ownership of river shore areas, and are ready to engage in such discussions with local, state, tribal, and federal partners and stakeholders; and,

WHEREAS, we believe interested local governments and other stakeholders should convene formal discussions with appropriate federal land management agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, regarding present and future ownership and administration of federally-owned river shore lands along the Columbia and Snake Rivers in the Tri Cities area;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Franklin County wishes to be an active participant in such discussions on behalf of the citizens we represent; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners that we support the re-conveyance of no less than 16 miles of Columbia River shoreline currently held by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers within Franklin County, back to appropriate local public and private interests.

DATED this 24th day of February 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rick Miller, Chair



Robert E. Koch, Chair Pro-Tem

Attest:



Clerk to the Board



Brad Peck, Member



February 8, 2016

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the 850 members of the TriCity Association of Realtors, I'm writing to express our strong support for the reconveyance of 38 miles of Columbia Riverfront land from federal management to the TriCity community.

In 1948, conditions in the Columbia River warranted federal involvement to protect the community from damage caused by flooding waters. Some 38 miles of riverfront land was conveyed from the community to the Army Corp of Engineers. Throughout the years, several dams have been built, and water management has changed the Columbia River into a very stable waterway. The need for federal involvement and management has long since expired. Further, the management of the land has not been performed in a way that complements the community and encourages economic value and growth.

Now is the time for that land to be reconveyed to the community for development, management and improvement. The significance of having this land as part of the economic future for this community is measurable and substantial. Our riverfront holds the key to our community image, tourism commercial and residential development, as well as maintenance of the natural habitat that captures our history.

As an industry leader in the Greater TriCity Region, this Association encourages all those who are stakeholders and overseers to support this great effort. This land was once ours and we believe its time to return it to the community where it will become the asset it should be.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

TRICITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Lola Franklin, CAE
Chief Executive Officer





February 8, 2016

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
U.S. House of Representatives
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse:

On behalf of the 850 members of the TriCity Association of Realtors, I'm writing to express our strong support for the reconveyance of 38 miles of Columbia Riverfront land from federal management to the TriCity community.

In 1948, conditions in the Columbia River warranted federal involvement to protect the community from damage caused by flooding waters. Some 38 miles of riverfront land was conveyed from the community to the Army Corp of Engineers. Throughout the years, several dams have been built, and water management has changed the Columbia River into a very stable waterway. The need for federal involvement and management has long since expired. Further, the management of the land has not been performed in a way that complements the community and encourages economic value and growth.

Now is the time for that land to be reconveyed to the community for development, management and improvement. The significance of having this land as part of the economic future for this community is measurable and substantial. Our riverfront holds the key to our community image, tourism commercial and residential development, as well as maintenance of the natural habitat that captures our history.

As an industry leader in the Greater TriCity Region, this Association encourages all those who are stakeholders and overseers to support this great effort. This land was once ours and we believe its time to return it to the community where it will become the asset it should be.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

TRICITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Lola Franklin, CAE
Chief Executive Officer





February 8, 2016

Cindy Reents, Manager
City of Richland
505 Swift Boulevard
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms. Reents:

On behalf of the 850 members of the TriCity Association of Realtors, I'm writing to express our strong support for the reconveyance of 38 miles of Columbia Riverfront land from federal management to the TriCity community.

In 1948, conditions in the Columbia River warranted federal involvement to protect the community from damage caused by flooding waters. Some 38 miles of riverfront land was conveyed from the community to the Army Corp of Engineers. Throughout the years, several dams have been built, and water management has changed the Columbia River into a very stable waterway. The need for federal involvement and management has long since expired. Further, the management of the land has not been performed in a way that complements the community and encourages economic value and growth.

Now is the time for that land to be reconveyed to the community for development, management and improvement. The significance of having this land as part of the economic future for this community is measurable and substantial. Our riverfront holds the key to our community image, tourism commercial and residential development, as well as maintenance of the natural habitat that captures our history.

As an industry leader in the Greater TriCity Region, this Association encourages all those who are stakeholders and overseers to support this great effort. This land was once ours and we believe its time to return it to the community where it will become the asset it should be.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

TRICITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyla Franklin".

Lyla Franklin, CAE
Chief Executive Officer



TRI-CITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 26, 2016
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONCEPTUAL CONVEYANCE OF ALL
WATERFRONT LANDS TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

WHEREAS, prior to 1948, all lands along both sides of the Columbia River were locally owned; and

WHEREAS, the land was brought into Federal control after the floods of 1948; and

WHEREAS, the development of dams, water control and management have changed the dynamics of the Columbia River, diminishing the need for Federal control of the land

WHEREAS, local control of the lands would improve economic development opportunities and recreational enhancements,

WHEREAS, the Tri-City Association of Realtors are supportive of local jurisdictions receiving the lands for planning and executing development and riverfront enhancements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE TRI-CITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS for the Greater Tri-City Region, the Board of Directors have reviewed the merits of conceptually pursuing the re-conveyance of at minimum thirty-five miles of riverfront lands currently being managed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to local jurisdiction for the purposes of economic development and control.

PASSED BY THE TRI-CITY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON, this 26th day of January, 2016 and signed in authentication of its passage this 26th day of January, 2016.

Attest:

Ken Poletski, Board Chair

Lola Franklin, CEO Tri-City Association of Realtors

RESOLUTION 2016 099

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF CONVEYANCE OF OWNERSHIP OF FEDERALLY-OWNED LANDS
ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, most of the Columbia River shoreline and some of the lower Yakima River shoreline in Benton County was expropriated from local public and private ownership and placed into federal ownership after the floods of 1948 and subsequent construction of the McNary and John Day projects; and,

WHEREAS, after several decades, management of the Columbia River is now a refined practice that has changed the hydrology of the river such that its flow is generally static, predictable, and not subject to the threats of dynamic fluctuations; and,

WHEREAS, there is a sense in the Tri-Cities community that local ownership and control over these shore lands would improve opportunities for economic development and recreational enhancements; and,

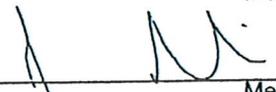
WHEREAS, Benton County finds the time appropriate for detailed discussions about the long-term ownership of rivershore areas, and is ready to engage in such discussions with its local, state, tribal, and federal partners and stakeholders; **NOW THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Benton County Board of Commissioners that interested local governments and stakeholders should convene formal discussions with the appropriate federal land management agency – meaning the United States Army Corps of Engineers – regarding administration and ownership of federally-owned rivershore lands along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers in the Tri-Cities area, and the long-term future of that administration and ownership. Benton County will be an active participant in such discussions.

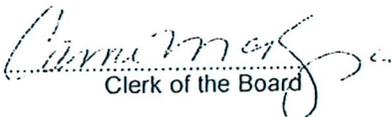
Dated this 7 day of FEB, 2016.


Chairman of the Board


Member


Member

Constituting the Board of Commissioners
of Benton County, Washington.

Attest.....
Clerk of the Board

orig: Commissioners
cc: Prosecutor, Parks, Sustainable Development

Prepared by: A.J. Fyall

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2
A Resolution of the Board of Directors
of Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Supporting the Conceptual Conveyance of US Army Corp Land to the City of Pasco

WHEREAS, the Pasco Chamber of Commerce is supportive of developing Pasco's shoreline to further enhance access and promote economic activity.

WHEREAS, the Pasco Chamber recognizes Pasco needs to take advantage of opportunities to gain more local control of our waterfront property.

WHEREAS, the City of Pasco could benefit from commercial activity to offset the cost of maintaining its water front parks.

WHEREAS, more local control and development would enrich Pasco's economic prosperity.

WHEREAS, the Kennewick City Council recently passed a resolution supporting the conceptual conveyance of Columbia Park to the City of Kennewick.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Pasco Chamber of Commerce urges the Mayor and Pasco City Council pass a similar resolution to pursue conveyance of Army Corp of Engineer land to help Pasco's prosperous growth and community livability.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Pasco Chamber of Commerce this 28th day of July, 2015.

CITY OF KENNEWICK
RESOLUTION NO. 15-23

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONCEPTUAL CONVEYANCE OF
COLUMBIA PARK TO THE CITY OF KENNEWICK

WHEREAS, in 1981 Benton County entered into a 50-year lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 the City of Kennewick entered into a sublease agreement with Benton County to maintain and operate Columbia Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 WRDA '96 was established, allowing for Land Conveyance to the Cities of Kennewick, Richland and Pasco for Park and Recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the City of Kennewick entered into a 50-year shoreline lease with the Army Corps of Engineers, in an effort to continue to maintain and develop Columbia Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kennewick wishes to have some commercial activity at Columbia Park to offset a portion of Maintenance and Operations costs; and

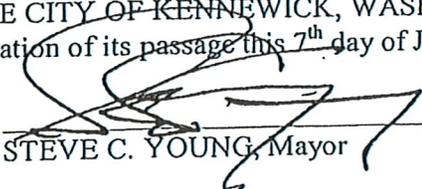
WHEREAS, the City of Kennewick is interested in partnering with our stakeholders to develop the details for full conveyance of Columbia Park to pursue Economic Development and tourism opportunities in addition to Park and Recreation activities; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON that the City Council has reviewed the merits of conceptually pursuing the conveyance of Columbia Park and has concluded the following: It is critical to begin the process of working with our stakeholders and partners on the concept of conveyance of Columbia Park from the US Army Corps of Engineers and staff is directed to assist in those efforts and develop the details and work plan to pursue this effort.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON, this 7th day of July, 2015, and signed in authentication of its passage this 7th day of July, 2015.

Attest:

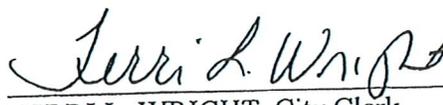

TERRI L. WRIGHT, City Clerk


STEVE C. YOUNG, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 15-23 filed and recorded in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Kennewick, Washington, this 8th day of July, 2015.

Approved as to Form:


LISA BEATON, City Attorney


TERRI L. WRIGHT, City Clerk

Ron & Doreen Williams
226206 E. Donelson Rd.
Kennewick, 99337

March 29, 2016

Dear Community Leaders:
Doc Hastings
Brad Fisher
Gary Peterson

As home owners who live on riverfront property in the Finley area of Kennewick, WA, we strongly support the re-conveyance of 38 miles of riverfront land from federal management to local oversight. We are one of the 15 families living on Donelson Road which adjoin the river bank which was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1948 without compensation to the land owners.

At the time the land was taken, it was to help protect the land owners from damage caused by flooding. Since then, dams have been built and water management has changed the Columbia River into a stable waterway. Our home is located on a lot that is approximately 25 feet above the high water mark.

As a result of having the riverfront land surveyed by a licensed surveyor, it was determined that our riverfront land did not have any archeological history. Our lot is 95 feet wide. As of now, the Corps borders our lot with a 25 foot wide by 95 foot strip of land which it does not maintain, so as the adjoining landowner, we provide the maintenance in order to control weeds and brush, plus reduce the fire hazard as well as to provide river access and view of the Columbia River.

The Corps rules require adjoining land owners to apply for permits to access this land which is between the home owners and the river. The Corps resists issuing permits for use of this land and is difficult to work with. The Corps has been less than cooperative in working with us to use the land in front of our homes. We believe that the Corps should return this land to the owners of the said adjoining properties and focus its efforts and budget on viable projects for the good of the community and its citizens.

We have chosen to build our home with a view of the river, take great pride living here and considerate it both a privilege and obligation to take good care of this land. Therefore we are requesting the aid of our elected government representatives and community leaders to aid in the effort to return Corps controlled land to the adjoining landowners within the identified 38 miles of Columbia River shoreline.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership in these efforts!

Ron & Doreen Williams
226206 E. Donelson Rd
Kennewick, WA 99337

W. Thomas Cooper
225606 E. Donelson Rd.
Kennewick, WA 99337

March 28, 2016

U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse
3100 George Washington WY.
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Return of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer holdings in Tri-City area to local control

Dear Congressman Newhouse,

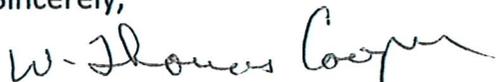
I am writing to ask you to join with and wholeheartedly support the efforts of local business leaders as well as your predecessor, Rep. Doc Hastings to return the lands which the Corps of Engineers hold under the umbrage of the McNary Shoreline Management plan to the adjacent governmental entities and private landowners.

The lands were taken by the Corps some sixty plus years ago when times were different. Installations of the dams and dikes on the Columbia and Snake Rivers along with dramatic advances in hydrology and weather forecasting have essentially made the threat of flooding in the Tri-Cities moot.

We currently live adjacent to a section of Corps taking lands which is approximately 50 feet wide and higher than the dikes in the Tri-Cities. The strip is too narrow to be meaningful for wildlife and the Corps does nothing to maintain it. We have the choice of paying an exorbitant amount to maintain the area or have a weed infested fire hazard in our front yard.

Please join your fellow citizens in advocating for the return of all Corps lands in the McNary Shoreline Management area to the local agencies and landowners except for a sufficient strip above or back from the high water mark to adequately manage the shoreline itself.

Sincerely,



W. Thomas Cooper
CC: Rep. Doc Hastings, Brad Fisher, Gary Peterson

Heidi Cooper
225606 E. Donelson Rd.
Kennewick, WA 99337
March 28, 2016

U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse
3100 George Washington WY.
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Return of USACE land holdings in Tri-City area to local control

Dear Congressman Newhouse,

I am writing to ask you to support the efforts of local Tri-City business leaders as well as your predecessor, Rep. Doc Hastings to return the lands which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hold under the umbrage of the McNary Shoreline Management plan to adjacent governmental entities and private landowners.

Over the past several years, I have had many unpleasant personal interactions with the USACE employees. Since the installation of an approved dock in 2012, I have frequently found myself in a bureaucratic nightmare due to the intransigence of the USACE. In June of 2015, we were charged \$3,934.00 for a permit application for a trail to walk to our dock and, to date, have not received the permit. In addition, we have spent over \$10,000 for required mitigation of the hillside between our home and the Columbia River. The hillside consisted of bare cobble rock with no vegetation prior to the installation of our dock. As additional mitigation we, along with many other dock owners, are required to plant and maintain hundreds of shrubs and trees on shorelines miles from our homes. According to USACE employees, these plantings are to keep the public from the shorelines of the river.

Nearly 48 years ago, a real threat of flooding was present. Times have changed—the installation of additional dams, advances in weather forecasting and hydrology have totally mitigated the threat of floods. I believe USACE ownership of lands above the minimum necessary to safely maintain the pool created by McNary Dam has outlived its usefulness. It is time to return the properties to local control in order and do away with the bullying and bureaucratic ineptness which currently exists.

Please join me and your fellow citizens in advocating for the return of all non-essential USACE properties above the high water mark and above designated flood zones in the McNary Shoreline Management area to the local agencies and adjacent landowners,

Sincerely,



Heidi A. Cooper
Heidi.cooper39@hotmail.com
CC: Rep. Doc Hastings, Brad Fisher, Gary Peterson

March 28,2016

Dear Gary Peterson,

As home owners who live on riverfront property in Finley, we strongly support reconveyance of 38 miles of riverfront land from federal management to local oversight. There are 13 families who live on Donelson Road in Finley. Each of these families have land adjoining the river bank which was taken by the Army Corp of Engineers in 1948. These pieces of land were taken from the land owners without compensation. At that time, the land was taken to help protect the land owners from damage caused by flooding waters. Since that time, dams have been built and water management has changed the Columbia River into a stable waterway. Our home is located on a lot that is 21 feet above the high water mark. If our lot flooded, the entire Tri-Cities would be flooded. As a result of having the riverfront land surveyed by a licensed surveyor, it was determined that our riverfront land did not have any archeological history. Our lot is 90 feet wide. As of now, the Corp owns a piece of our lot 25 feet deep times 90 feet which gives them ownership of over 2250 square feet of our building lot. We have to apply for permits to use this land which is between our home and the river. The Corp rarely issues permits for any vegetation use of this land. Past efforts to work with the Corp on use of this land has been difficult for us and many land owners. The Corp has been less than cooperative in working with us to use the land in front of our homes. We would like to get this land back from the Corp and ownership given to us, the rightful home owners. We love living on the river and considerate it our obligation to take good care of the land. If the mortgage companies who finance our homes do not require flood insurance on our homes, than why should the Corp have a need to protect us from floods.

We urge our government leaders to help us in the effort to return Corp controlled land back to the rightful owners!

Thank you for your leadership in these efforts!

Budd and Linda Eggers
226304 E Donelson Rd
Kennewick, WA 99337

Dear Richland City Council Members,

We are writing you in regards to articles we have read in the Tri-City Herald about the transfer or acquisition of land that is currently controlled by the Army Corp of Engineers. With this transfer we believe it allow the city to have much more useable shoreline. The rivers and river shores of the area seem to be an underused gem. We feel that the transfer of this land by the Army Corp of Engineers to the city would be good for the community and the potential of future growth of the tri-cities.

Knowing what the city has developed other areas along the river shore such as Howard Amon Park and the Holland St. John's tennis courts, we feel that there could be potential in the future to develop a tennis facility in this area. This facility could be a great opportunity to grow the sport in this area along with allowing the Phyllis Meyers' Tennis Association and the United States Tennis Association run events to draw in people from other cities around Eastern Washington and from the entire Pacific Northwest.

We are in support of this land transfer from the Army Corp of Engineers back to the city.

Sincerely,

Scott Petersen
Phyllis Meyers' Tennis Association
Board Member

Dear City Council Members,

I saw the article in the Tri-City Herald about the Columbia River reclamation project, and I felt compelled to write as a proponent of the idea of repurposing the land for the use of the Tri-Cities. Coming from the Portland, OR area I have seen personally how local parks, Tualatin Hills specifically, can be used for the benefit of the local community. I believe that through the reclamation of the land there is an amazing opportunity for activity and growth for the Tri-Cities.

With the weather that the Tri-Cities receives, we can be outside longer than our West side counterparts. This is an opportunity that is not taken advantage of. The Tri-Cities could create a tennis hub that would be used as a center meeting point for PNW tournaments, and through (with) the USTA & WIAA, could be an additional revenue source for the Tri-Cities hotels, restaurants, and wineries.

- Host large tournaments for semiprofessionals
- Host College Teams
- Have a USTA Office on the East side of WA
- Hold Sectionals for many different USTA events
- Hold WIAA State Tennis
- Hold Local Tournaments in conjunction with our local business
- Host High School Invites

I would like to see the tri cities provide year-round recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. These offerings should include diverse classes, park sites with active recreational amenities, trails, a swim center, a tennis center, and a large recreation centers. I believe that the reclamation of this land should be the first step. We should make this happen.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

William D. Taylor
Director of Tennis at Columbia Basin Racquet Club
(360) 513-4256 Cell
(509) 943-8416 Work

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/article58088188.html>

This school year there are over 200 middle school tennis players in Pasco and Richland. Hanford High has 80 players and Richland has 35. There are over 240 high school players that are playing this year in all of the Tri-Cities.