

Save Tacoma Water

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P.O. Box 8841 • Tacoma WA 98419 • www.SaveTacomaWater.org • (253) 209-7988

Sept. 21, 2016

Robert Ferguson
Washington State Attorney General
1125 Washington St SE PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

RE August 15, 2016 Attorney General complaint against Port of Tacoma officials for violating RCW 42.17A.555 by using public funds and facilities against two ballot propositions

Dear Attorney General Ferguson,

Save Tacoma Water wishes to express our appreciation to your office. Thank you for taking campaign finance disclosure laws seriously. STW is grateful for the AG complaint against the Port of Tacoma and its actions taken in opposition to Save Tacoma Water's Water Protection Initiatives.

Save Tacoma Water volunteers have been doing research that we hope your office might find helpful in your investigation.

Attached, please find copies of documents provided through public records requests with the City of Tacoma. The documents show a close relationship between the City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma in a five page document titled, "Confidentiality and Common Interest Agreement".

In addition to that document, please find copies of invoices for legal bills incurred by the City of Tacoma produced from that same public records request. They are heavily redacted invoices for legal bills from Pacifica Law Group but clues show a close working relationship between City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli and Carolyn Lake, attorney for the Port of Tacoma. The invoices show the city has spent \$45,795.25 through July, the August invoice was not provided, though, according to the dates on the previous invoices, there should be another one for August by now.

Similar public records requests have been made to the Port of Tacoma, but they are still outstanding, and it has been months since the requests were put in.

We hope your office finds this information useful in your investigation as Save Tacoma Water finds the close relationship between the port and the city troubling. In the Port of Tacoma complaint, ironically, the amount of money spent by the port on

legal fees against STW's Water Protection Petitions came to \$45,000 - almost the exact same amount the city discloses in the public records documents they were invoiced. The complaint goes on to say the EDB spent \$9,994 and the chamber spent \$10,000. Judging by the legal documents served repeatedly on Donna Walters and Sherry Bockwinkel, those fees seem low considering the city was paying legal fees of \$210.00/hr for Sara Washburn, \$275.00/hr for Kymberly Evanson and \$495/hr for Paul Lawrence.

As this process continues, how can STW stay informed about the next steps as this complaint investigation goes forward? Volunteers with STW have been following the court filings on line and have noticed that the 20 days to respond has passed and there are no further filings. STW volunteers would be interested in attending any court hearings, so any advance notice on those would be helpful, as many of our volunteers work during normal court hours and would have to arrange time off.

Thank you so very much for your interest in enforcing campaign finance laws. We hope the investigation involving the Port of Tacoma might include looking at the City of Tacoma's involvement as well. The city and port show a united front against our water protection initiatives with the "Confidentiality and Common Interest Agreement" they have entered into together (see attached).

Please contact anyone of us for further information. We are continuing with our research and keep finding out more and more, it is truly astounding. STW is doing this as we are hopeful that our research will help get our Charter Amendment 5 signatures validated and then on to the ballot, letting the people decide. Again, many thanks.

Most Sincerely,

Donna Walters
STW Co-chair
(253) 209-7988

Michael Lafreniere
STW Spokesperson
(253) 228-0925

Sherry Bockwinkel
STW Co-Chair
(253) 640-1799

Attachments

March 17, 2016 email from Carolyn Lake to Elizabeth Pauli RE: Joint Defense
June 13, 2016 signed Confidentiality and Common Interest Agreement
Heavily redacted invoices from Pacifica Legal Group, January through July, 2016