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Grant Will Help Port Clean Up Budd Inlet and Restore Shipping Berths

OLYMPIA – Port of Olympia Commissioners on Feb. 9th accepted a Washington State Department of Ecology matching grant that is helping clean up Budd Inlet and is restoring parts of shipping berths 2 and 3 to a depth of -38 feet. The project is also helping the Port evaluate future clean-up alternatives for the Port’s remaining navigational areas.

The estimate for the pilot project’s cost and the first part of maintenance dredging is \$3,312,068. Project costs including consulting, monitoring and contracting fees are eligible for the 50% grant match up to \$2,241,738.

“We are proud to be a working part of Governor Gregoire’s Puget Sound Initiative,” said Bill McGregor, Commission President. “Port of Olympia began environmental clean-up in Budd Inlet 20 years ago with Cascade Pole. We are pleased to have received approval to implement this new project, and acknowledge the diligent and thorough work done by the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers throughout the application process.”

Port of Olympia began working on the project in 2000 and again in 2005. It has now committed over one million dollars through initial monitoring after construction. Department of Ecology issued their agreed order on Dec. 5, 2008, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the permit on Dec. 19, 2008.

The remedial action grants were established under the federal Model Toxics Control Act and have been available since 1990. The grants are funded by a tax on certain hazardous substances, and only local governments—such as Port of Olympia—may receive funds from the local toxics control account. The Department of Ecology administers the grants.

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About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County’s partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.