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## Press Release

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### **PORT ISSUES REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR EAST BAY DEVELOPMENT**

The Port of Olympia has issued a request for qualifications from development firms and potential end users for mixed-use development of six parcels in the East Bay District, the downtown Olympia waterfront property adjacent to State Avenue.

“Given the location of these parcels, particularly with their close proximity to the planned public plaza, expanded children’s museum, and LOTT’s educational facilities, we are pleased to be placing the remaining East Bay District properties on the market to ultimately determine the interest and capabilities within the development community to advance the redevelopment program” said Commission President Bill McGregor.

The Port has secured agreements with public partners for development of the first three sites. The LOTT Alliance, the Hands On Children’s Museum, and the City of Olympia have joined together to create a dynamic center of activity, connecting surrounding communities, the waterfront and Olympia’s downtown.

The individual projects – a larger, permanent home for the Hands On Children’s Museum, a new administrative and education center for LOTT and an economic development platform for the port – will energize the redevelopment of the entire area. The heart of the district will feature a public plaza with a water feature, open space and public gathering area.

“The East Bay redevelopment effort is expected to transform the east end of downtown into a vibrant pedestrian-friendly district, community gathering place and public friendly

waterfront destination, much as the Port's Market District spurred quality development in the north end of downtown," McGregor added.

About two blocks of the 13.3-acre East Bay district fronts on State Ave. between Jefferson and Chestnut streets and stretches north about five blocks along the Port's Marine Drive on East Bay. The six parcels total 6.83 acres and range in size from approximately 21,000 to 116,000 square feet. Respondents may note their interest and qualifications for development of one, some or all size parcels. The Port is offering the parcels as "pad-ready" building sites.

"The Port is excited about this dynamic core of new projects that will serve the community for generations to come," said Ed Galligan, Port Executive Director. "As we have seen in other projects, we believe this initiative will result in significant private investment in and around the East Bay site that will compliment the public projects already committed."

Planning and citizen input for the East Bay project has been under development for more than seven years. The Port is awaiting the final short-plat of the district so that parcels can be subdivided and specifically identified for development with streets and utilities. The Port is awaiting final short plan approval from the City of Olympia so that the street and utility construction can begin.

The request for qualifications was sent on November 24 to local, state and national firms and potential users that have the capability to plan and develop the site. Copies of the Request for Qualifications may be requested from the Port of Olympia at 360-528-8000 or downloaded from the East Bay website: [www.eastbayportofolympia.com](http://www.eastbayportofolympia.com). The submittals are due December 23, 2008.

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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.