

# Remedial Action Grants



## Port of Tacoma position

The Port is seeking \$7 million in Remedial Action Grant funding to fund several remediation projects under agreed orders initiated by the state.

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## The Issue

The Port of Tacoma has a long history of partnering with stakeholders to clean up and improve the environmental conditions of Commencement Bay. Since 1987, the Port has managed \$301 million worth of environmental investments.

An important tool in this effort is Remedial Action Grants (RAGs) funded by Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) accounts used to clean up contaminated properties. The accounts are funded by a dedicated tax on toxics in the state.

The two remediation projects for which the Port of Tacoma seeks funding are intended to continue this commitment. These projects prioritize and fund clean-up actions on port property likely to have the greatest environmental benefit and benefit to Southern Resident orcas.

PROJECT	FUNDING REQUESTED
Earley Business Center (EBC)	\$2.0 million
Arkema Manufacturing	\$5.0 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7.0 million</b>

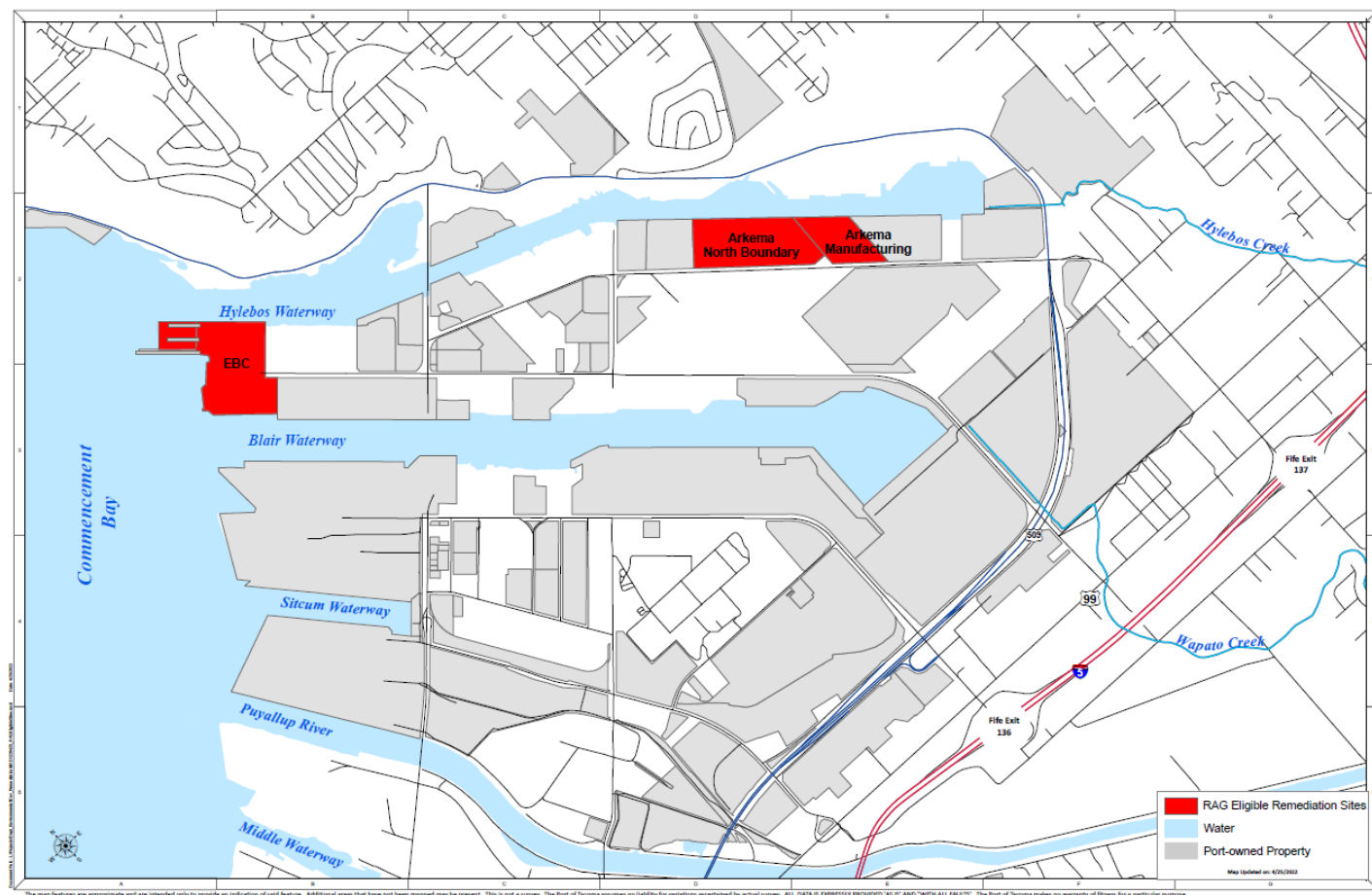
## Earley Business Center (EBC)

The EBC site contaminated with PCBs and PAHs associated with ship building that occurred on the property during World War II. The shoreline around the EBC site is eroding into the Blair Waterway, threatening to expose contamination to the waters of the Blair and Commencement Bay. PCBs are very persistent in the environment taking a long time to degrade, bio-accumulate in fish and whales (thereby posing a threat to orca recovery) and are a known carcinogen. The shoreline erosion also poses a threat to the long-term viability of the EBC— home of manufacturing companies like Silverback Marine, Motive Power Marine, and SAFE Boats— as portions of the property are washed away. The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the project are complete and the \$2 million requested by the Port would pay for design and construction to prevent further shoreline erosion.

## Arkema Manufacturing Area

The Arkema Manufacturing Area was the site of a chemical facility that operated from 1928 to 1997, manufacturing chlorine, caustic soda, chlorate salts, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid and an herbicide (sodium arsenate) known as Penite. Although approximately \$71 million was spent by the previous property owner on cleanup, the site remains too contaminated to access without proper training. Recent monitoring coupled with contaminant transport modeling indicates that arsenic continues to migrate to the Hylebos Waterway at low but unacceptable levels. The Port and Ecology are moving forward with the installation of a subsurface containment wall to cut off the flux of arsenic to the Hylebos as soon as possible. However, additional cleanup actions will be needed. Because of the cost and complexity of the cleanup, the Port will implement future cleanup actions in phases. The Port seeks \$5 million to implement additional arsenic source removal from the highest concentration area of the property.

## Port of Tacoma Remediation Projects



## Project supporters

- Economic Development Board of Tacoma Pierce County
- International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23
- Tacoma Pierce County Chamber
- Washington Public Ports Association