

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No. 4a

Date of Meeting April 5, 2011

DATE: March 29, 2011

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Jane Kilburn, Director, Public Affairs

SUBJECT: Special Order of Business: The Port Centennial 1911-2011

BACKGROUND:

In celebration of the Port of Seattle's Centennial, at the first meeting of every month in 2011, the Port will share a moment of the Port's history.

By the time our nation observed the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, the Port of Seattle was already looking at its operations through an environmental lens. In 1971, Seattle became the first West Coast port to create a staff position focused entirely on ecological considerations – in this case, to manage wildlife habitat and relocate birds so they do not become hazards for aircraft. Currently, the Port has between 45 and 50 staff positions primarily involved in environmental issues. Almost all other Port staff positions have some environmental content because environmental considerations are thoroughly integrated into the Port's operations and management.

In 1974, the American Association of Port Authorities gave the Port of Seattle its first-ever environmental excellence award. Many more environmental awards have followed, including the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Excellence Award in 2008, Cascade Land Conservancy's "The New Directions for Livable Communities Award" in 2008 for the Port's conservation efforts establishing the Green Airport Project, the American Association of Port Authorities 2010 Comprehensive Environmental Management Award for the "Environmental Compliance Assessment Program," and the Airports Council International – North America's 2010 Environmental Achievement Award.

Today, our tagline is 'where a sustainable world is headed', and our environmental advantage has become a competitive advantage for us, our partners and local business. Our 2011 budget reflects our ongoing commitment to environment stewardship with significant investments in environmental mitigation, energy conservation and emissions reduction programs.

OTHER DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SPECIAL ORDER:

A Long Environmental History - Seattle-Tacoma Airport raptor relocation, 2002 (slide).