



News Release

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Joint Master Plan of 1,341 Acres to Start

The Port of Benton (Port) and City of Richland (City) announce the master planning process of 1,341 acres of federally transferred property. This property, previously owned and managed by the Department of Energy, was transferred in early 2016 via Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC). The project will begin with presentations to the Richland City Council (June 28th workshop), Port of Benton Commission (July 28th Commission meeting) and Inter-Tribal Advisory Committee.

The planning and zoning phases will take approximately six months to complete, followed by draft master plan concepts presented in early 2017. The City and Port have an interlocal agreement that outlines this master planning partnership including ultimate marketing and development of the entire property (581 acres City of Richland, 760 acres Port of Benton).

Local consulting firm, JUB Engineers Inc., Kennewick, was selected to develop the plan with \$50,000 in grant funding secured by the Port. This funding is provided by the State of Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). The City and Port will both contribute match funding in the amount of \$48,820 each for a total project cost of \$147,640. The Port of Benton is taking the lead on the Plan and will be the contracting agency.

The Port and City received the property with the intent of holding a large parcel of 200 plus acres for a clean energy manufacturer. This decision was based upon previous

interest, proposed investment and job creation from international companies pursuing such sites.

“We continue to seek opportunities to retain our skilled workforce as well as grow and develop new talent,” states Port of Benton Executive Director, Scott D. Keller, PPM®. “We want to be proactive and ready to leverage these opportunities for the region.” Currently across the region such large parcels of industrially zoned property are not available. The City of Richland’s Horn Rapids Industrial Park, while over 2,000 acres in total, has only a limited number of large acre parcels remaining.

“We appreciate our ongoing partnership with the Port of Benton,” shares Kerwin Jensen, Community Development Director with the City of Richland. “As the Hanford site continues to transition, creating job opportunities within the clean energy sector are vital in order to maintain our strong, local economy.

For more information about this effort visit www.portofbenton.com or www.ci.richland.wa.us.

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