



City of Lacey, Washington
Community Relations & Public Affairs Committee Agenda

Refer to bottom of the agenda for instructions on attendance.

Monday, July 3, 2023

11:00 AM

Council Chambers and Online

1. Roll Call

2. Agenda Items

A. Land Acknowledgement Policy

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

3. Adjourn

Attend Remote or In Person

The public may attend the meeting in person, or you may view or listen to the meeting using one of the following platforms:

In Person: Council Chambers at Lacey City Hall, 420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81319340053>

City Website: <https://cityoflacey.org/upcoming-meetings/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cityoflacey>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2217HQYbHxo>

By Phone: (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247 (Webinar ID 813 1934 0053)



COMMUNITY RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 3, 2023

SUBJECT: Land Acknowledgment Policy

RECOMMENDATION: Review the draft Land Acknowledgment Policy.

Motion to: Forward the draft Land Acknowledgment Policy to the full Lacey City Council for consideration.

STAFF CONTACT: Rick Walk, Interim City Manager *RW*
Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager *SKF*

ATTACHMENTS:

1. The Nisqually Indian Tribe and City of Lacey Accord
2. Draft Land Acknowledgement Policy

PRIOR REVIEW: [Commission on Equity Meeting](#) – June 26, 2023
[Commission on Equity Meeting](#) – November 28, 2022
[Commission on Equity Meeting](#) – November 22, 2021

FISCAL IMPACT: None

**WORK PLAN GOAL:
AND STRATEGY** An Engaged Community (L)

COMM. PLAN: Goal 2 (C) – Create relationships and continue to build capacity with historically underrepresented communities to ensure barriers to participation are eliminated allowing individuals to participate in decisions that impact the community, as desired.

**COE
RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the draft Land Acknowledgment Policy

BACKGROUND: The City of Lacey (“City”) is located on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, specifically the people of the [Medicine Creek Treaty](#) (1854), including

the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Squaxin Island Tribe. The City works with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe in government-to-government partnerships.

Mutual Accord. On March 4, 2014, the Lacey City Council and the Nisqually Tribal Council participated in a ceremonial event to sign an historic agreement, The Nisqually Indian Tribe and City of Lacey Accord, see **Attachment 1**. The Accord acknowledges the partnership and mutual interests shared between the City and the Nisqually Tribe. It also provides a framework for future meetings and collaboration. As a symbol of the partnership, the Tribe presented the Lacey City Council with a carved totem pole, which is currently displayed in the lobby of Lacey City Hall. A rededication ceremony occurred on July 9, 2015.



Figure 1. The Lacey City Council and Nisqually Tribal Chair Cynthia Iyall (July, 2014)

Land Acknowledgements. Land Acknowledgements are formal statements that recognize, pay tribute to, express gratitude and respect for, affirms the ongoing relationship between indigenous people and the land, and helps raise awareness of the Indigenous histories, perspectives, and experiences —past, present, and future. Land Acknowledgments serve as one element of a broader effort to support Indigenous communities. These acknowledgements are statements recognizing the history and presence of Indigenous peoples and their enduring relationship to traditional homelands. Statements often call attention to treaty rights and historical injustices, while also honoring the modern culture and contributions of Indigenous people.

Land Acknowledgements are rooted in many Indigenous people’s practices and cultural protocols. As described on the [Duwamish Tribe webpage](#):

“It is important to note that this kind of acknowledgement is not a new practice developed by colonial institutions. Land acknowledgement is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgement is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth...”

The purpose of Land Acknowledgements are commonly to:

- Recognize and respect Indigenous communities;
- Provide support for Indigenous communities;
- Continue to build strong and authentic relationships with Indigenous communities;
- Bring awareness of histories that led to past and current development of an area, including history of dispossession, displacement, colonialization, cultural erasure, broken treaties, etc.;
- Recognize Indigenous history, culture, and positive impacts on the greater community; and
- Used as a step to inspire more action and better relationships.

Importantly, land acknowledgements are not to be performative acts and can cause concern when Indigenous Peoples are not included as stakeholders in the development process. As part of the development of this draft policy, the City reached out to the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe for input and feedback. In addition to providing the foundation of the land acknowledgement, the Nisqually Indian Tribe provided some additional recommendations in 2023 that were incorporated into the drafts presented in **Attachment 2**. Recommendations from the Nisqually Indian Tribe included:

- Adding language that this policy is subject to change; and
- Adding language on the Medicine Creek Treaty.

The draft Land Acknowledgment Policy, **Attachment 2**, includes the following elements:

1. Purpose of the policy and land acknowledgements
2. Full City of Lacey Land Acknowledgement

City of Lacey Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the ancestral land we are on today as the traditional territory of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed in 1854, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

We acknowledge, remember, and must not forget those Tribal People that are named but not recognized today, and who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here.

We acknowledge, Indigenous People who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and have been here Since Time Immemorial.

We recognize the relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories, which include the religious significance, self-determination, identity, and economic factors. The relationship helps all people heal from the past and learn how not to inflict new wounds today.

We recognize and respect Indigenous People as traditional stewards of this land, and acknowledge the Tribal Governments and their role today in taking care of these lands.

We recognize that this land acknowledgement, and the Nisqually-Lacey Accord of 2011, are small steps toward true allyship. We commit to partnering with the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek to continue to uplift the voices, experience, and histories of indigenous people of this land and beyond.

We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today.

We recommend that community members read the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#).

3. Abbreviated City of Lacey Land Acknowledgement

City of Lacey Abbreviated Land Acknowledgement

We [or insert object, e.g., “This Marker is”] are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge, and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

4. Land Acknowledgement Uses:

- a. City Meetings, Events or Programming
- b. City Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents
- c. Signage, Markers, Maps, and Other Materials

5. Location of the Land Acknowledgement on the City's Website

The Commission on Equity recommended the adoption of the draft Land Acknowledgement Policy at their June 26, 2023 meeting.

ADVANTAGES:

1. The draft Land Acknowledgement Policy provides a consistent way for the City to recognize, respect, support, and build relationships with Indigenous communities, while also bring awareness of histories that led to past and current development of an area.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. None foreseen.

Nisqually Indian Tribe and City of Lacey Accord

This accord dated March 4, 2014 is reached between the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the City of Lacey to acknowledge the historical ties between the two communities and to build upon a framework of partnership, mutual understanding, and future collaboration.

WHEREAS, the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the City of Lacey have successfully partnered on issues of significance in the past, and;

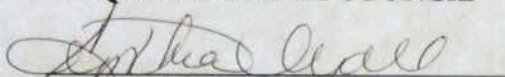
WHEREAS, the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the City of Lacey recognize shared interests related to environmental and resource stewardship, education, economic sustainability, community service, cultural and historical preservation, and;

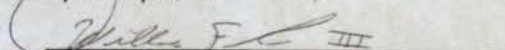
WHEREAS, the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the City of Lacey wish to strengthen and enhance the existing relationship to the greater benefit of the Tribal members and residents of Lacey.


NOW, THEREFORE, the parties reached the following accord:

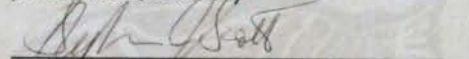
1. The parties' respective Councils will meet on an annual basis, or more frequently if desired.
2. At such meetings, the parties will identify common goals and mutual interests benefiting both Tribal members and residents of Lacey.
3. The parties will identify actions that are necessary to address or resolve issues of mutual importance.
4. The parties will explore opportunities or engage in activities which will strengthen the ties between the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the City of Lacey for their mutual benefit.


NISQUALLY TRIBAL COUNCIL

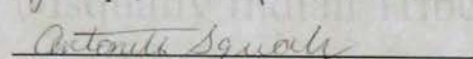

Cynthia Iyall, Chair

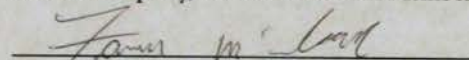

William Frank III, Vice-Chair


Jean Sanders, Secretary

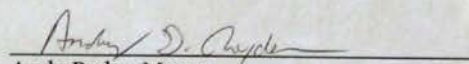

Stephanie Scott, Treasurer

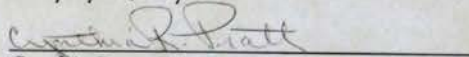

James Slape Jr., 5th Tribal Council Member

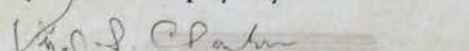

Antonette Squally, 6th Tribal Council Member

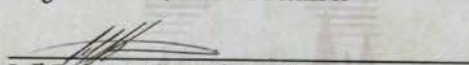

Farron McCloud, 7th Tribal Council Member

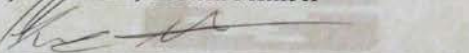
LACEY CITY COUNCIL



Andy Ryder, Mayor

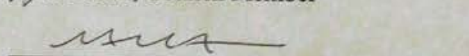

Cynthia Pratt, Deputy Mayor


Virgil Clarkson, Council Member


Jeff Gadman, Council Member


Lenny Greenstein, Council Member


Jason Hearn, Council Member


Michael Steadman, Council Member

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10.08 Land Acknowledgement

The purpose of this policy is to establish a City of Lacey Land Acknowledgment and provide guidance for City of Lacey employees, volunteers, appointed officials, and elected officials on its use. This policy is subject to change.

Land Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgements are rooted in many Indigenous people's practices and cultural protocols in order to recognize other Indigenous peoples whose land one is a guest on.

“It is important to note that this kind of acknowledgement is not a new practice developed by colonial institutions. Land acknowledgement is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgement is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth...”

[Duwamish Tribe webpage](#)

A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes, pays tribute to, expresses gratitude and respect for, affirms the ongoing relationship between indigenous people and the land, and helps raise awareness of the Indigenous histories, perspectives, and experiences — past, present, and future. In addition, Land Acknowledgements:

- Express support for Indigenous communities.
- Raise awareness of histories that led to past and current development of area, including history of dispossession, displacement, colonialization, cultural erasure, broken treaties, etc.
- Recognize the positive impacts of indigenous history and culture on the greater community.
- Are a first step to inspire more action and better relationships indigenous people.
- Are not intended to be a performative act.
- Are ceremonial in nature and do not carry any legal authority.

The City's Land Acknowledgement was reviewed by members of the Nisqually Indian Tribe. In adopting a local land acknowledgement, the City is not taking a position on the status of federal recognition for any tribe. The City recognizes that land

acknowledgements are powerful statements and that these statements are most meaningful when paired with authentic and sustained relationships with Indigenous communities.

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We recommend that community members read the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#).

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to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

Land Acknowledgement Use

The above Land Acknowledgements may be used:

1. To open City meetings, events, or programming;
2. As part of City plans, reports and other adopted documents; and
3. On City signage, markers, maps, and other materials.

Guidelines for use of the Land Acknowledgment is provided below. Please contact the City Manager's Office if you are planning to use the Land Acknowledgement for uses #2 and #3.

1. City Meetings, Events or Programming

For City Council meetings, the full or abbreviated Land Acknowledgement should:

1. Be printed on every regular and special Council meeting agenda, and
2. Read out loud at Council meetings where appropriate, as determined by the Mayor or presiding officer.

Additionally, the Land Acknowledgement may be used at the beginning of meetings or other events hosted by the City. Such meetings could include, but are not limited to:

3. City staff meetings;
4. City Advisory Board or Commission meetings;
5. Community meetings hosted by the City, such as town halls, open houses, focus groups, or similar;
6. Ceremonial events, such as ribbon-cuttings; and
7. City events, such as large-scale Parks, Culture, and Recreation events.

It is not recommended to assert or suggest using the Land Acknowledgement for meetings or events hosted by other organizations.

Recommendations for Use at City Meetings or Events:

1. The full or abbreviated Land Acknowledgement should be read at the beginning of meetings or events.
2. Keep the introduction of the Land Acknowledgement simple and direct:

“To start this meeting/event, I would like to read the City’s adopted Land Acknowledgment statement...”
3. Best practice guidance from Indigenous People is that you speak from your heart when reading the Land Acknowledgement, do not make the reading performative.
4. Do not include other announcements about social, political, or City initiatives alongside the Land Acknowledgement. The Land Acknowledgement should be and feel separate from any other announcements.

If anyone at a City meeting or event has a question or concern about the use of the Land Acknowledgement, they can be refer to the City’s website ([insert](#)) and/or the City’s Manager Office.

2. City Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents

The full text of the Land Acknowledgement can be added to the beginning of City Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents. In this context, “Adopted Documents” is defined as policy documents that are adopted by the City Council.

For such documents, the full text of the Land Acknowledgement should be used with the footer:

“Visit [insert](#) for more information.”

As some documents have pages that are intentionally left blank, the Land Acknowledgement should appear on the first page that has text after the cover page. The Land Acknowledgement should appear before all other text elements. No visual or graphics should accompany or be integrated into the Land Acknowledgement text. The Land Acknowledgement should be set in the same font as other text in the document. Italics may be used at the author’s discretion.

3. Signage, Markers, Maps, and Other Materials.

The full or abbreviated Land Acknowledgement can be added to printed City signage, markers, maps, and other materials.

For such a use, when possible, the full Land Acknowledgement should be used, with the following footer:

“Visit [insert](#) for more information.”

With projects with space limitations that prevent the use of the full Land Acknowledgement, the abbreviated Land Acknowledgement should be used, with the following footer:

“Visit [\[insert\]](#) for more information.”

No visual or graphic should accompany or be integrated into the Land Acknowledgement text. The Land Acknowledgement should be set in the same font as other text in the document. Italics may be used at the author’s discretion.

Land Acknowledgement on City Webpages

A link to the Land Acknowledgement webpage should be made available on the top banner of the City website and other City operated websites. Given the presence of this link, there is no need to include the Land Acknowledgement on specific projects, programs, or other webpages. A link to the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#) will be provided on the Land Acknowledgement page.

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