

COVER MEMO

Briefing Date/Time: May 18, 2026

Staff Contact/Title: Alex Smith, Executive Director
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Subject: Evergreen Pool Discussion

Purpose: Information Only Decision Needed

Overview

The Port Commission requested to have scheduled time to be able to discuss and learn more about the potential closure of The Evergreen State College pool.

The Port has invited the following to attend and participate in the discussion:

- William Ward, TESC, will discuss the financial challenges Evergreen is facing with regard to the pool;
- Henry Valz, Community Organizer, will discuss what he and other members of the community would like to propose as a way to keep the Evergreen Pool open;
- Paul Simmons, City Manager of Tumwater, will share background on, and current discussions about, a public facilities district for a new regional aquatics facility.

Background

Members of the community have provided public comment to the Port Commission about the impending closure of the Evergreen State College Pool, and Commissioners have been part of other community discussions around the issue. The Commission would like to learn more about the issue directly from parties involved and asked that staff put the topic on the agenda for the May 18th Work Session.

Scheduled to speak to the Commission at the Work Session is a representative from the Evergreen State College, a key figure in the community organization supporting the pool and trying to find a way to keep it open, and someone integrally involved in efforts to use a public facilities district to fund a new regional aquatic facility.