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June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Victoria Woodards, Mayor  
City Council Members  
Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street, 12th Floor  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Re: Futurewise Comments on the Open Space Corridors project—phase 1

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of Tacoma City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Open Space Corridors project. Futurewise is a statewide organization dedicated to ensuring that growth and development happen equitably and sustainably—through the lens of the Growth Management Act. We now have staff in Tacoma and are looking forward to working with the City and community members on these issues. While we support dense urban development in cities, it is imperative to direct growth away from some areas of the city, especially biodiversity areas and steep slopes.

Therefore, we commend the Planning Commission's proposed amendments to TMC 13.11 Critical Areas Preservation for Biodiversity Corridors and Areas. These amendments will help to preserve the ecosystems that provide crucial wildlife habitat, tree canopy, pollination, and reduced carbon dioxide. Limiting vegetation disturbance to no more than 35% and ensuring a minimum width of 300 feet allows habitats to remain connected for wildlife movement—which happens daily or as part of an animal's lifecycle. These updates help move us toward the City's goal to have no net loss of ecological functions and to achieve citywide tree canopy of 30% by 2030.

We are pleased to see that the updates also include mitigation sequencing for steep slopes to help prevent landslides and ensure health and safety. We understand a more comprehensive update on geohazards is the next phase of this project and look forward to working with the City on that phase, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase focused on tree canopy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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