



NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE

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Tumwater City Council
555 Israel Road SW
Tumwater, WA 98501

RE: *Davis Meeker Garry Oak*

Honorable Members of the Tumwater City Council:

The Nisqually Indian Tribe recently initiated consultation with the Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation regarding the historic Davis Meeker Garry oak tree located near the Olympia Airport. The tree predates the Treaty of Medicine Creek and is located along a historic trade route (the Cowlitz Trail) utilized by the Tribe for centuries. Prior to the arrival of European settlers the Nisqually people maintained the open prairies of the South Puget Sound where these oak trees thrived by regular burning. Acorns from these native oak trees were an important food source.

The Tribe requests that the city delay taking any action to remove the oak tree until the Tribe has had an opportunity to complete consultation with the State Historic preservation Officer and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

E. Ken Choke
Chairman
Nisqually Indian Tribe