

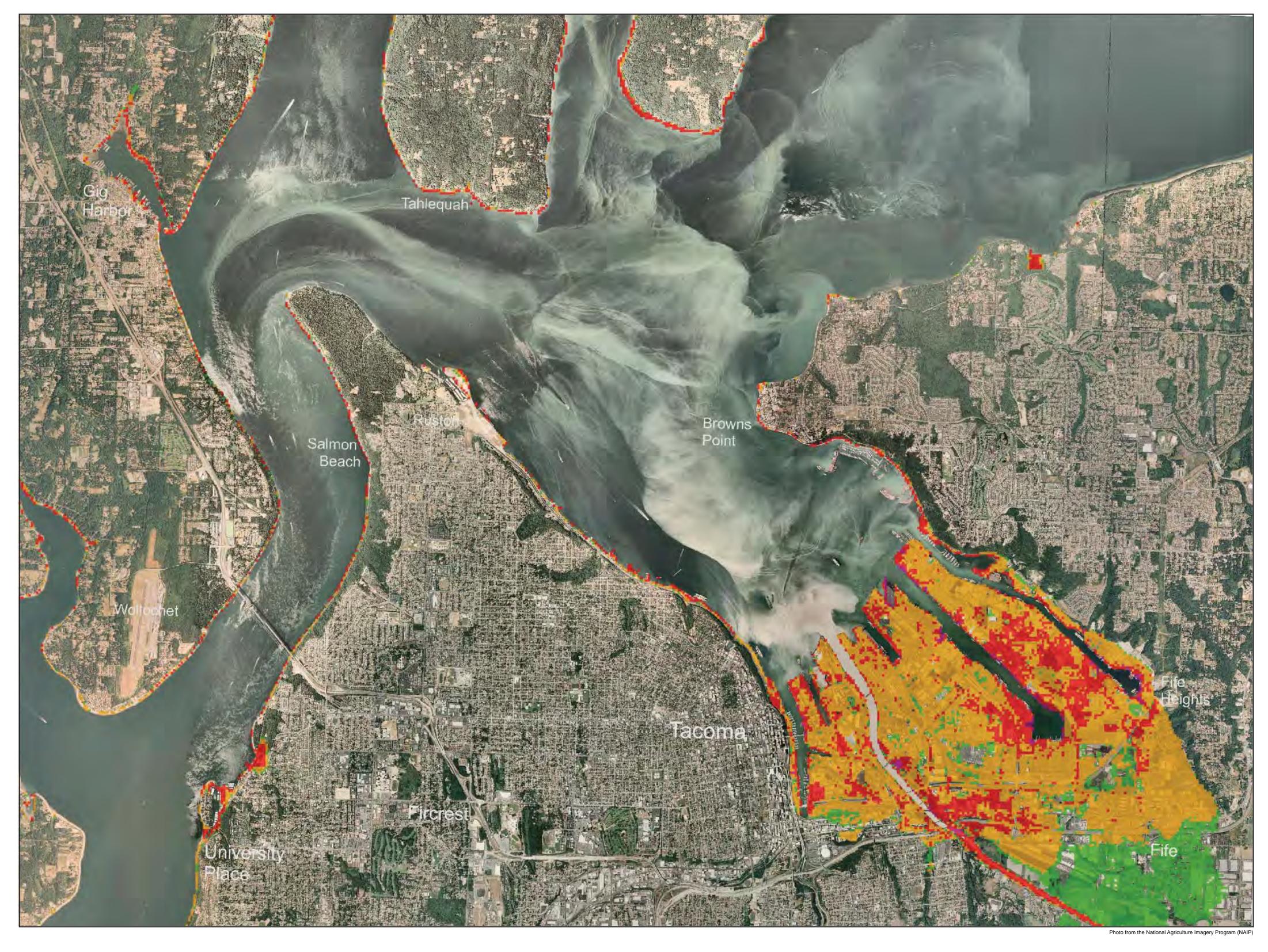
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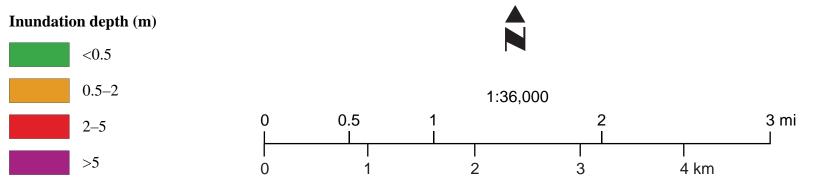


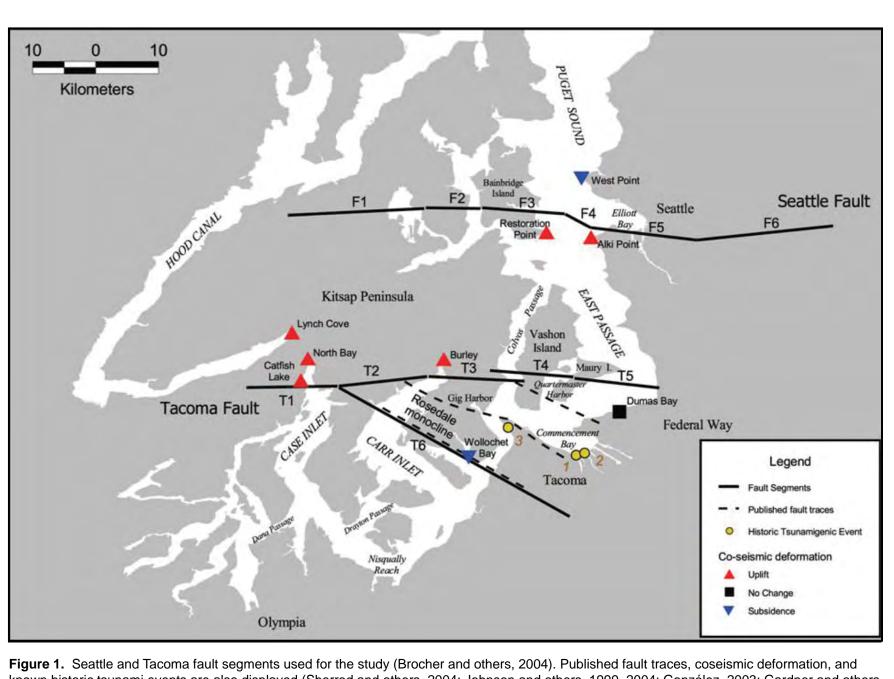
NOAA Center for Tsunami Research Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

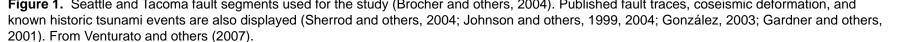
[The Seattle Fault modeling below is superseded by Map Series 2022-03]

Modeled Inundation from a Seattle Fault Tsunami

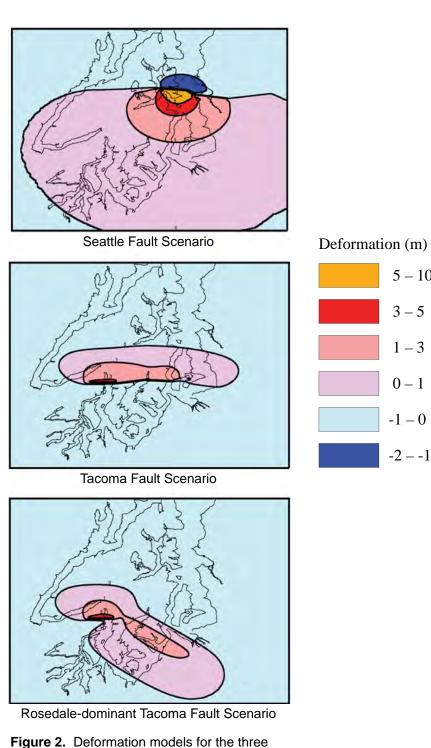








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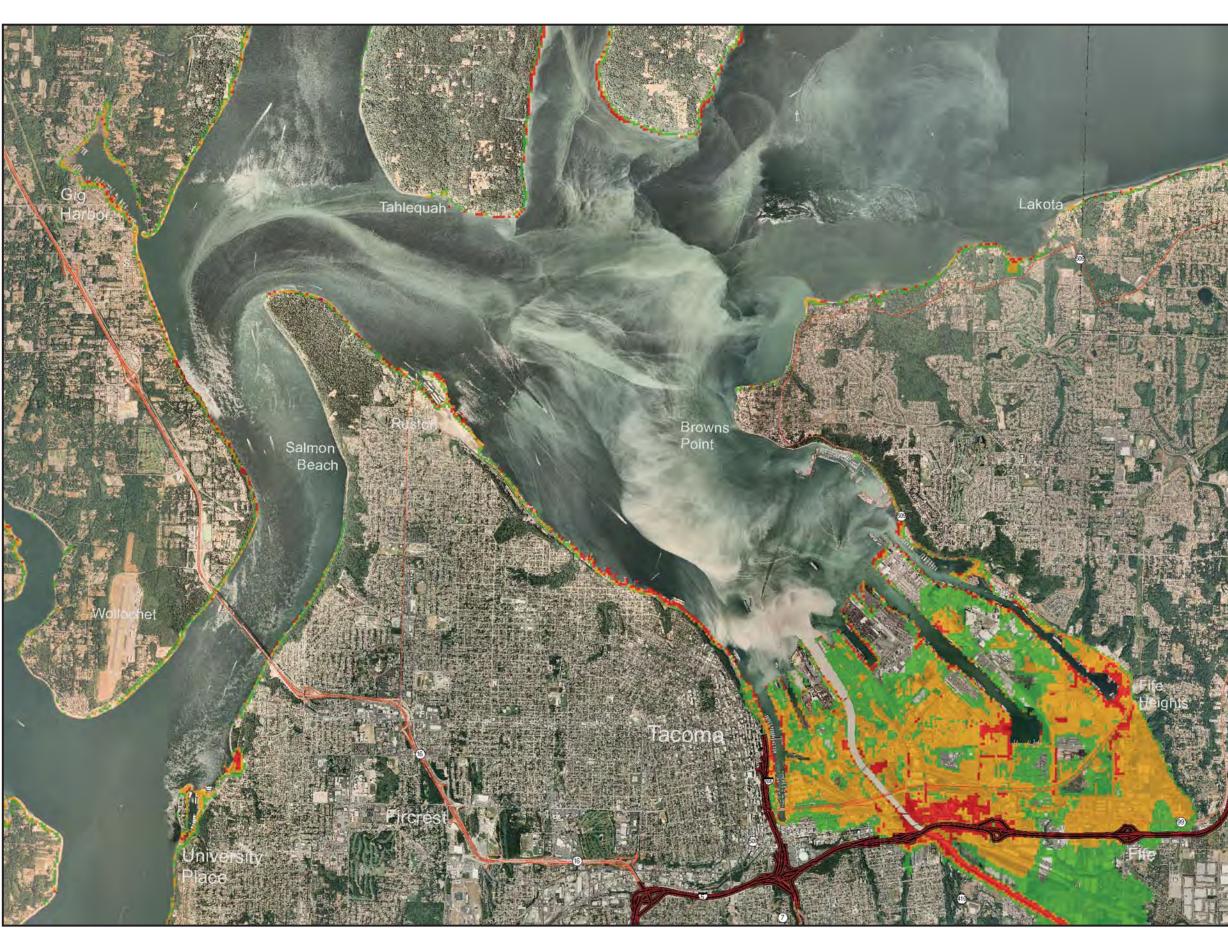


scenarios used in this study. From Venturato and others (2007).

[The Seattle Fault modeling portion of this publication has been superseded by Map Series 2022-03]

Tsunami Hazard Map of Tacoma, Washington: Model Results for Seattle Fault and Tacoma Fault Earthquake Tsunamis

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from the last Tacoma fault earthquake, which was also about 1000 years ago but is less well constrained

Laboratory in Seattle. THE SEATTLE FAULT

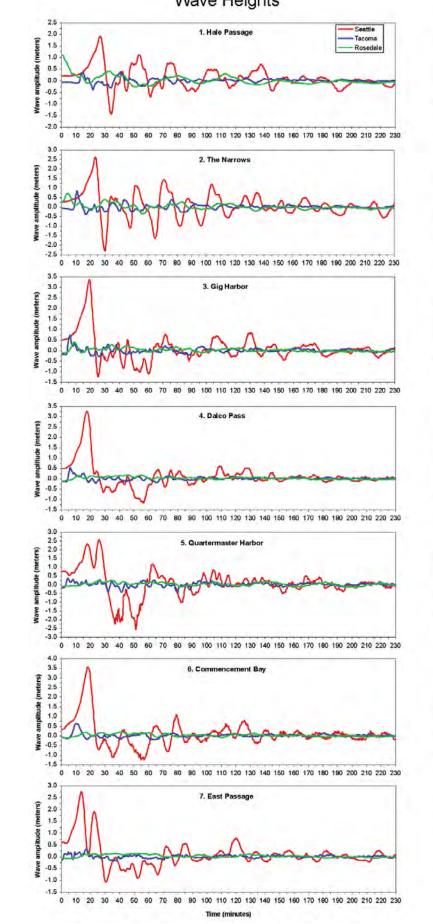
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Johnson and others, 1999; ten Brink and others, 2002). There also is substantial evidence that earthquakes on the Seattle fault can generate tsunamis. Atwater

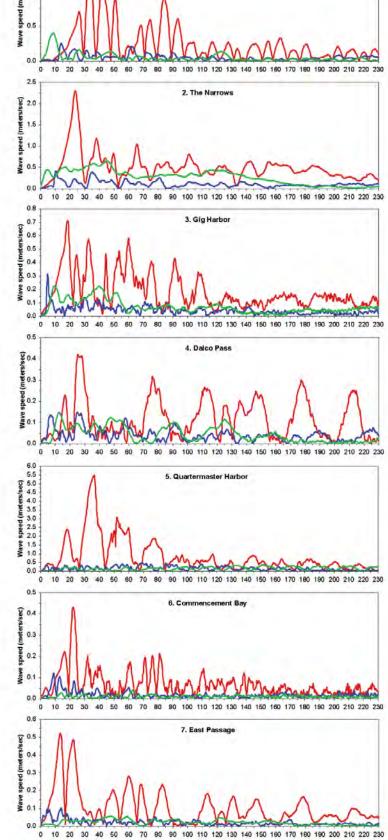
and Johnson, 2001). THE TACOMA FAULT

the Tacoma fault. MODELING

others (2004). The fault parameters (Figs. 1 and 2) were derived in a workshop convened by Walsh and



Note that at all locations, the Seattle fault tsunami is much larger.



Time (minutes)

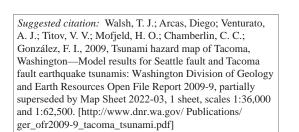
Figure 3. Time series of tsunami wave heights and current speeds at select sites of the study region. Positive peak elevations are

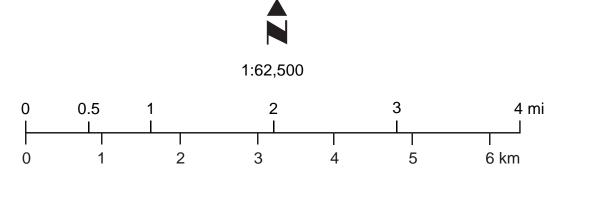
wave crests; negative elevations are wave troughs or times when water is flowing out to sea. From Venturato and others (2007).

[The Tacoma fault modeling and Tacoma-Rosedale fault modeling below is NOT superseded]

Modeled Inundation from a Tacoma Fault (left) and a Tacoma–Rosedale Fault (right) Tsunami







ABSTRACT Numerical modeling of tsunamis generated by earthquakes on the Seattle fault and the Tacoma fault show that Tacoma would be subjected to larger and more damaging waves from a Seattle fault earthquake, even though the Seattle fault is considerably more distant. This is because the Seattle fault traverses Puget Sound in much deeper water and can therefore displace more water. event would be beyond the scope of this study. The results show that a repeat of the Seattle fault earthquake of about A.D. 935 would generate has experienced substantial dredging and filling, there is still natural ground along the main stem of the Puyallup River in Fife and in Hylebos Waterway. Both of these channels have significant areas with modeled inundation depths of more than 5 m for a Seattle fault event and more than 4 m from a Tacoma fault event. These models will provide useful guidance for paleoseismology investigations of A.D. 935 tsunami deposits and perhaps also tsunami deposits

In 1995, Congress directed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop a plan to protect the West Coast from tsunamis generated locally. A panel of representatives from NOAA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the five Pacific Coast states wrote the plan and submitted it to Congress, which created the National Tsunami of tsunamis through warning guidance, hazard assessment, and mitigation. A key component of the Division, as a contribution of the NTHMP. These maps are produced using computer models of earthquake-generated tsunamis from nearby seismic sources. The modeling for this map was done by the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research (NCTR) at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental

Vancouver (1798) noted that the fault-uplifted bedrock wavecut platform at Restoration Point (Fig. 1, Location 1) on Bainbridge Island "did not possess that beautiful variety of landscape, being an almost impenetrable wilderness of lofty trees" that characterized the rest of his explorations in Puget Sound. of the fault, as a "postglacial eruption". Daneš and others (1965) interpreted the large gravity and magnetic anomalies through central Puget Sound and the associated abrupt change in the sedimentary gravity and magnetic data across the structure and named it the Seattle–Bremerton fault. Gower (1978) mencement Bay. demonstrated that the uplift at Restoration Point was Holocene in age and Bucknam and others (1992) showed that the uplift produced 7 m of uplift on the fault about 1000 years ago. In 1996, the first of a (Bucknam and others, 1999; Nelson and others, 2002). At about the same time, the U.S. Geological Survey began several large-scale geophysical studies. An aeromagnetic study of Puget Sound (Blakely and others, 1999, 2002) enabled more accurate location of the fault along its entire length. Seismic studies, such as SHIPS (Seismic Hazards Investigations in Puget Sound), and other geophysical studies in ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Puget Sound have greatly increased our understanding of the fault at depth (Pratt and others, 1997;

and Moore (1992) showed that tsunamis inundated part of Whidbey Island and West Point about 1000 years ago, and Jacoby and others (1992) showed that a tree in the tsunami deposit at West Point died in the same season of the same year as a drowned forest carried into Lake Washington by a huge landslide from Mercer Island, strongly implicating the large A.D. ~935 earthquake on the Seattle fault. A discontinuous sand layer along Snohomish delta distributaries—Ebey Slough, Steamboat Slough, Union Slough, and Snohomish River—was also probably deposited by the tsunami from this event (Bourgeois Daneš and others (1965) interpreted the large gravity and magnetic anomalies south of the Seattle fault as an active fault as well, although less so than the Seattle fault. Rogers (1970) collected additional gravity and magnetic data across the structure and named it the Tacoma–Gig Harbor fault. Brocher and others

(2001) refined its location on the basis of gravity, aeromagnetics, and seismic tomography and renamed it the Tacoma fault. Lidar imagery enabled Sherrod and others (2004) to locate and trench the fault, demonstrating that it ruptured about 1,000 years ago. Johnson and others (2004) proposed structural models for the Tacoma fault that either put surface displacement along the main trace of the fault or partitioning some slip along the Rosedale monocline. No paleotsunami deposits have been attributed to

elevations and calculates a wave elevation and velocity at each gridpoint at specified time intervals to simulate the generation, propagation, and inundation of tsunamis in the Tacoma area. simulates the ~1100 yr B.P. event as a credible worst-case scenario of magnitude 7.3. Details of the Seattle fault scenario are given in Titov and others (2003) and Walsh and others (2003c). Two deformation models for the Tacoma fault were used in the tsunami simulations, following Johnson and

attended by T. M. Brocher, T. L. Pratt, B. L. Sherrod, and C. S. Weaver of the USGS and Diego Arcas, F. Daneš, Z. F.; Bonno, M.; Brau, J. E.; Gilham, W. D.; Hoffman, T. F.; Johansen, D.; Jones, M. H.; Malfait, Bruce; González, H. O. Mofjeld, V. V. Titov, and A. J. Venturato of NOAA. Details of the Tacoma fault models are given in Venturato and others (2007). These scenarios were modeled separately, although Brocher and others (2004) and Sherrod and others (2004) suggest that the two faults may have ruptured at the same time. If both ruptures were part of the same event, however, reproducing the kinematics of the combined The Seattle fault, which traverses much deeper water, produces significantly more inundation than inundation depths of more than 2 m in much of the Puyallup delta. Although the Port of Tacoma either Tacoma fault scenario because it displaces much more water. This scenario is therefore shown at a larger scale The computed tsunami inundation is shown on the map in three color-coded depth ranges for the

> Tacoma fault scenarios: 0–0.5 m, 0.5–2 m, and greater than 2 m. These depth ranges were chosen because they are approximately knee-high or less, knee-high to head-high, and more than head-high. The model for the Seattle fault additionally shows a >5 m inundation depth. Figure 3 shows wave heights and arrival times for all three scenarios at key locations throughout the map area. The limit of tsunami inundation is the landward edge of the green zone. In previous maps, we have shown only the edge of inundation. Figure 4 also shows current velocities in two zones—less than or greater than 1.5 m/sec (~3 mi/hr), which is the current speed at which it would be difficult to stand. Computed velocities locally exceed 30 m/sec (~60 mi/hr). Initial flooding in the Tacoma area occurs 15 to 20 minutes after tsunami generation for both the Seattle and Rosedale scenarios and about 5 minutes after generation for the Tacoma fault scenario (Fig. 3; Venturato and others, 2007).

DISCUSSION

Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) in October of 1996. The NTHMP is designed to reduce the impact There have been no investigations that have identified paleotsunami deposits in the Tacoma area. Model data that show significant depth of flow and velocity may be useful to select appropriate areas of study. hazard assessment for tsunamis is delineation of areas subject to tsunami inundation. This map is part The map of fill at the Port of Tacoma (Fig. 5) shows areas where tsunami deposits would not be accesof a series of tsunami inundation maps produced by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, sible and areas, such as the mouth of Hylebos Waterway or along the Puyallup River, that may be suitable Division of Geology and Earth Resources, in cooperation with the Washington Emergency Management for paleoseismic studies. Distinguishing the source of a paleotsunami deposit would be difficult, though, because the last major earthquake on each fault was at approximately the same time.

LIMITATIONS OF THE MAP

Because the nature of the tsunami depends on the initial deformation of the earthquake, which is poorly understood, the largest source of uncertainty is the input earthquake. The earthquake scenarios used in this modeling were selected to honor the paleoseismic constraints, but the next Seattle or Tacoma fault Geographic features now known to be associated with the Seattle fault have been noted for many years. earthquake may be substantially different from these. Sherrod and others (2000) show that an uplift event at Restoration Point predating the A.D. 900–930 event was smaller. Trenching of subsidiary structures to the Seattle fault that are thought to be coseimic with the main fault trace (Nelson and others, 2002) indicates that there were at least two earthquakes in the 1500 years before the A.D. 900–930 event. These, Kimball (1897) also noted the uplifted wavecut platform at Restoration Point, measured the uplift, and however, did not produce prominent uplifted wavecut platforms similar to the one made by the A.D. identified the marine fossils found there. He also described the Newcastle Hills, part of the hanging wall 900–930 event, suggesting that significant earthquakes have occurred on the fault that had different and smaller uplifts in central Puget Sound. Another significant limitation is that the resolution of the modeling is no greater or more accurate than the bathymetric and topographic data used. This can be up to 50 m section thickness as an active fault with about 11 km of displacement. Rogers (1970) collected additional horizontally, although high-resolution multibeam data (Gardner and others, 2001) is available for Com-The model runs do not include the influences of changes in tides and are referred to mean high water. The tide stage and tidal currents can amplify or reduce the impact of a tsunami on a specific community. series of lidar (light detection and ranging) surveys was flown on Bainbridge Island. This and subsequent At the Port of Tacoma, the diurnal range (the difference in height between mean higher high water and lidar missions have enabled scientists to accurately locate the fault in a number of places and dig trenches mean lower low water) is about 12 ft (http://www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov, accessed March 23, 2009). This means that, while the modeling can be a useful tool to guide evacuation planning, it is not of sufficient resolution to be useful for land-use planning.

This project was supported by the National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program (NTHMP) in cooperation with the Washington Emergency Management Division (WAEMD). Information about NTHMP is available at http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/. During the study, NCTR maintained close communication with WAEMD and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR), and upon completion of the study, a suite of model-derived mapping products were delivered to both agencies in the form of electronic files and, where appropriate, hard-copy representations. This map is part of a series of tsunami hazard maps for Washington State. Maps completed to date are the southern Washington coast (Walsh and others, 2000), Port Angeles (Walsh and others, 2002a), Port Townsend (Walsh and others, 2002b), Neah Bay (Walsh and others, 2003a), Quileute area (Walsh and others, 2003b), Seattle (Walsh and others, 2003c), Bellingham (Walsh and others, 2004), and Anacortes-Whidbey Island (Walsh and others, 2005).

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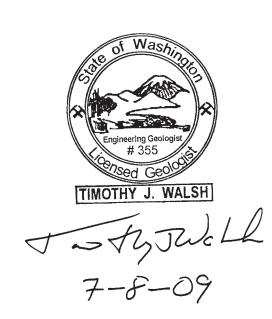
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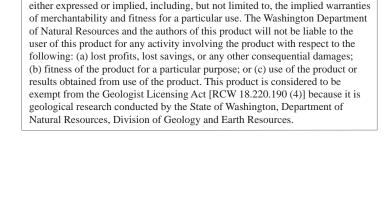
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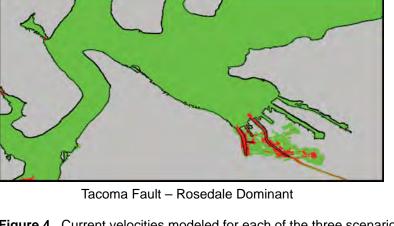


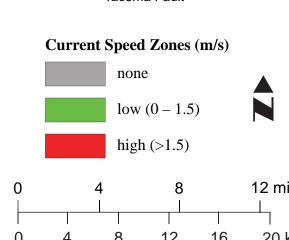


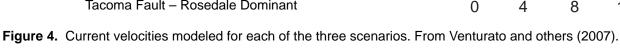


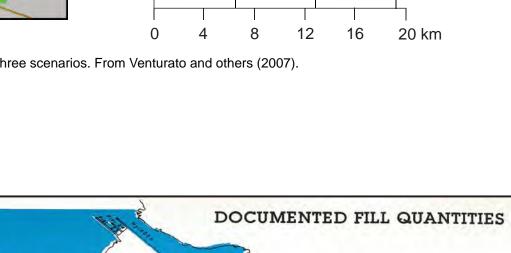
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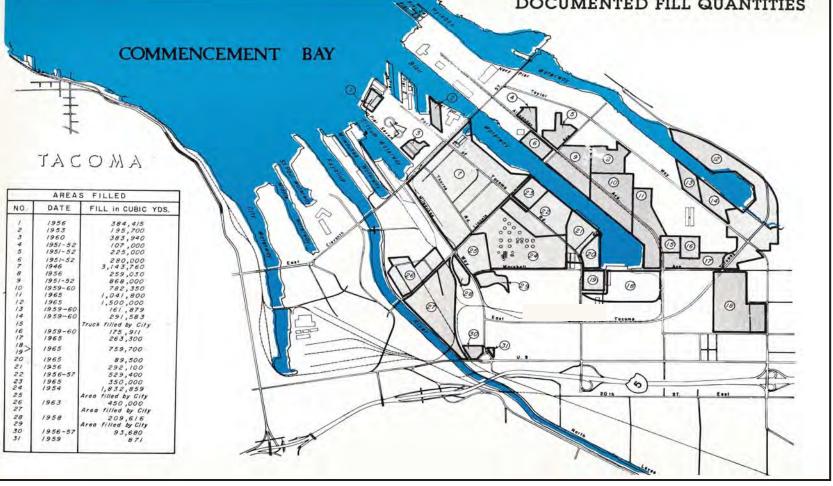


Figure 5. Known fill quantities and dates of emplacement at the Port of Tacoma. From Hart-Crowser, and Associates, Inc. (1974).