



South Sound Chapter
Surfrider Foundation
2522 N Proctor-PMB390
Tacoma, WA 98406

April 23, 2016

Kerry Graber, Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Kerry.graber@ecy.wa.gov

Re: Comment on the RI/FS for the Occidental Chemical Site

Dear Ms. Graber,

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches for all people. Our South Sound Chapter represents hundreds of members, volunteers, and supporters working to protect coastal and marine resources in Tacoma and Gig Harbor.

We have chosen to provide comment on the Occidental Chemical upland remediation plan selection because whatever becomes the trajectory of the upland, source-area remediation, the Tacoma community will gain the benefits but also bear the long term effects. We are hoping for a trajectory that will rapidly correct deteriorating conditions in that area of the Tideflats. We bring volunteers to a nearby beach to do beach cleanups. We have members that paddle kayaks and standup paddleboards along the stretch of the Hylebos adjacent to the Occidental Chemical site. We hope for a future where the people of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe will be proud of improvements made in the area of the site. The properties along the segment of Hylebos Waterway adjacent to the Occidental site currently appear blighted.

We have had the remedial plan options reviewed by a technical expert within our membership and conclude that the Option M9 is the only acceptable way to proceed with this particular site. We do not want the beautiful Commencement Bay to be tarnished by the stigma of a partially treated site that has no endpoint. Tacoma deserves better.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information on the Surfrider Foundation, visit www.surfrider.org.

Sincerely,

South Sound Chapter Executive Committee Members

Taylor Wonhoff, Chair

Lucas Drawdy, Vice-Chair

Skyler McVaugh, Treasurer

Katie Dunivan, Volunteer Coordinator

Riley Haizlip, Secretary

Bruce Hoeft, Blue Water Task Force Coordinator