

Lorna Zurkowski-Fuller

I live at 14514 Talmo Drive, Gig Harbor, WA. Recently, as Dean Burke just pointed out, the City of Tacoma celebrated the 10 year Anniversary of the Thea Foss Waterway Cleanup. As a former city of Tacoma employee, I use to manage environmental programs for the City of Tacoma. I can vouch for the time, resources, endless energy that was dedicated to recovery and protection of the waterways and bay by city staff, CHB and other organizations in and around Tacoma and that's why it's outrageous to me that this cleanup project has languished. I give credit to Kerry in Ecology for getting it going, but really, excuses such as it's too hard, it's too expensive to we don't know how to handle the caustic waste that melts the soil matrix, seriously? All these are unacceptable for this beautiful bay that is emerging as Tacoma's crown jewel. I urge Ecology to insist that Occidental Chemical take the following minimum steps to ensure the protection of the bay and the citizens of the bay that recreate here. Five steps: (1) Fully map the contamination plume, the extent of this plume in Commencement Bay is not known, that is **unacceptable and ridiculous**, it's essential to know the project area; (2) once the full extent into the bay is known, continue to monitor. Monitoring happens on the land and the nice and shallow waterway, keep it monitored out in the bay. What has gone out there? Monitoring must be completed in order to understand fully the plumes mobility; 3) Execute ongoing monitoring of the interface between the contamination and air and water. 4) Kerry spoke briefly about the poor settlement analysis that needs to continue, additional methods need to be developed routinely. 5) The last thing Occidental Chemical proposes a wall to contain the high pH chemicals. This should be considered an initial step for containment while viable methods for treating, removing or stabilizing those caustic materials are discovered. The mass of caustic material must be closely monitored. Containment alone must not be the final solution for this material.

Thank you Ecology, Kerry for moving this process forward. I appreciate your efforts to protect the natural resources and Commencement Bay.