Abundant wildlife and vegetation could thrive in the area if it were cleaned and protected in a trustworthy manner. Sometimes cheap is more expensive. I support the astute comments contributed by other members of the public in this round, and applaud those constructive efforts of government staff and contractors to date.

I believe Ecology should not deflect comments about land use saying it is not its job to decide on such matters, often suggesting the citizen contact in this case the Port or City. As is pointed out on their page, Ecology is the leader (reference below) in a legal agreement with those two entities and about 10 or 12 other organizations. I apparently am missing something, but do not understand why the terms “demonstration” or “pilot” (or “lead”) are used if the cleanup is not 100% cleaning/removal and in fact led by Ecology in deed not just in word. If the **model** or **example** is to be hereby set for a new, global approach, then removal of mercury and all other toxicants ought to be as timely as possible and “comprehensive” (Ecology’s term per below). Not partial, not waiting 20-25 years, and not just a coverup. If I were a global follower, I would follow something else as a model or example.

Ecology might respond that the Port and City partners are aware of comments received however we will immediately forward your comment to them requesting their response be added on this document - something like that or better of course. It is irksome when one agency or one staffer tosses input to other employees as if they wash their hands of the concern. True reliable public service - as in private customer service - entails taking responsibility for satisfying an inquiry. I believe Ecology certainly has the prerogative to speak up about land use especially since current land use decisions are contrary to its goals as written: "To use a new cooperative approach to expedite source control, sediment cleanup, and associated habitat restoration in Bellingham Bay." Ecology is said to be the project lead. Even if land use decisions were beyond its authority, cleanup requirements resulting from those decisions at a later date will not be.

My wish was that the City and the Port had aspired to restore the shoreline to be more similar to Oregon's life-supporting coast instead of restoring it to its former "glory" of industry industry and more industry. The timber should have stayed standing (preferable) or gone to Grays Harbor, the boulders should have stayed on the mountains (preferable) or gone to Everett, and the creeks should have stayed estuarine. The vision should have been to situate future apartment/condo dwellers and businesspeople in non-toxic, bedrock sorts of sites where they won’t be exposed to air pollution and won’t need to be rescued during the one or more foreseeable crises such as 60' tsunamis, train wrecks, earthquakes, or sea level rise. Hopefully nothing will shake up the people and the containments with their toxic contents. In those emergency scenarios, lower cost options cannot be adhered to as they are now. The costs will be astronomical.

To be responsible stewards, in line with the pilot project purpose, we should remediate the illegal insults of those who went before, not replace them with new wrong practices and cosmetic approaches “to expedite source control, sediment cleanup, and associated habitat restoration in Bellingham Bay.”

REFERENCES

Please see the Department of Ecology's statement re the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot:

> "The Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot is a team effort of 12 government entities, led by us, to clean up contamination, prevent pollution, and restore habitat in and around Bellingham Bay. We formed the Pilot Team in 1996 to develop a new, global approach to cleaning up sites. The team put this approach into a comprehensive strategy document that now governs how it approaches cleanup work. The Pilot Team is co-managed by Ecology and Port of Bellingham, with Ecology as the lead."

https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites/Toxic-cleanup-sites/Puget-Sound/Bellingham-Bay/Bellingham-Bay-demonstration-pilot

And which purpose is stated on the Port of Bellingham website as follows:

> Purpose
> Since 1996, the Port of Bellingham has been a co-manager of the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot, a partnership of 14 different federal, state, local, and tribal agencies working cooperatively together to improve the environmental health of Bellingham Bay. This partnership is working to:
>
> - Clean up historic contamination in Bellingham Bay
> - Restore habitats for fish, birds, and other aquatic resources
> - Revitalize land uses
> - Stop ongoing sources of pollution
>
> *https://www.portofbellingham.com/146/Bellingham-Bay-Demonstration-Pilot*