

From: Todd Lagestee
Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2019 10:44 PM
To: McInerney, Lucy (ECY) <LPEB461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: Bellingham Central Waterfront Cleanup

To the Washington State Dept. of Ecology-

My name is Gregory Todd Lagestee. I go by Todd Lagestee. I reached out to a bunch of people I know to have them comment on the Bellingham Central Waterfront Cleanup and to request an extended comment period and to ask for an open public meeting. I wrote a basic template that they may cut and paste from or write their own comments.

I attended the July 10, 2019 walking tour of the Bellingham Central Waterfront Cleanup. It was a very, very basic overview and not technical in any capacity. At some points, the subject matter wandered to the ASB lagoon, to the I & J Waterway, to the Whatcom Waterway and to the GP site. It was on a rainy day and because of the long walking, not all on concrete paths, may have deterred those with handicaps. In short, it was a feel good measure in my opinion.

It was clear in the walking tour that the amount of clean up was minimal and that much of the site contamination was being capped instead of cleaned. That is truly a miscarriage of responsibility on the part of the City of Bellingham, the Port of Bellingham and the Washington State Department of Ecology. There are a multitude of reasons to clean this up (water runoff quality, groundwater quality, Orca habitat, Salmon enhancement) and only one reason to cap it over, money. That we as a community can consider short sighted and cost limited measures to not clean up and continue to externalize the cost of pollution on to the future is unacceptable.

The small sites to be capped to the North and the South of the large asphalted area of the Central Waterfront Cleanup should be actually remediated. The contamination should be removed and clean fill installed so that the area is as clean as possible. This area is so close to the water that runoff and groundwater are difficult to control. Furthermore, capping an area on fill, that is subject to liquefaction and tsunami impacts is not a surefire method of containment, in an area that could be impacted by the eventual Cascadia Subduction Zone megathrust 9.0 or greater earthquake.

We, as Citizens of Bellingham have an opportunity to ensure that we don't pass on a future shrouded in contamination and future work to the generations that will come. It is time for us to pay it forward and do the right thing, right now. Clean up the non-continuous sites in the Central Waterfront instead of just capping them.

Please hold a meeting to discuss this important issues. The WA State DOE website on public comments states that you will hold an open public meeting if you get 10 requests to do so: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/TCP/SiteCommentPeriod/CentralWaterfront>

Respectfully,

Todd Lagestee

The Washington State Dept. of Ecology should hold an open public meeting to allow for more public comment