

# Port Angeles Business Association

The Port Angeles Business Association is happy to provide the following comments on the Port Angeles Western Harbor Cleanup Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study:

1. The preferred alternative looks to have struck a reasonable balance between cleanup outcomes and input costs. To our knowledge, it will involve proven cleanup methods in use around the world. We support the preferred alternative.
2. Get it done! Port Angeles does not need a repeat of the failing effort to remediate the former Rayonier Mill site in the eastern Port Angeles harbor and upland area. That effort is still seemingly stuck – an unacceptable cleanup plan, coming decades after the mill closure, with no end yet in clear view.
3. We note that the contaminated sediments are the result of decades of legal industrial and manufacturing activities. The harmful effects of industrial and manufacturing byproducts were either unknown or not very well appreciated while those activities were ongoing. From a public policy perspective, it is more than appropriate that State and Federal budgets should contribute in a substantial way to the sediment cleanup. It will not help economically for the local public and private fisc to bear the entire cost of the cleanup effort.
4. The Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs) will have to bear considerable cost, even if insured against this kind of risk – either in increased insurance premiums, or in an inability to be insured against this type of risk in the future. As above, we need help from State and Federal budgets to help lessen local fiscal impacts and opportunity costs for the money spent from local coffers.
5. It is very appropriate for local governments and business entities to expect the same kind of outside financial support, in the same proportion to the overall effort, as other similarly situated communities have. This is not the first such effort undertaken in our state, and it is reasonable for us to think that earlier cleanup efforts in Western Washington have had substantial Federal and State financial support. If the Department of Ecology were to directly contract for some appropriate portion of the cleanup effort – since the contamination resulted from legal activities back in the day – there would be no constitutional issue of such monies going directly to private entity PLPs involved in this cleanup effort.