

GLEN FUERSTNEAU

I celebrate being a resident of Edmonds by strolling the walk bordering the north side of the marsh. In the morning, I pass by birders photographing the beautiful marsh. As I talk with the birders, I learn that many don't live in Edmonds but come to Edmonds Marsh for its serene beauty. Also, I walk by the Sound Salmon Solutions modest schoolroom to educate our youngest generations about restoration of the ecological needs for improving the health of the Sound. Outside this school room and salmon hatchery, a gate blocks the road to the Unocal site because it has misused the site as a toxic material dumping ground.

I have reviewed quite a few comments of others about their recommendation of Alternative 4. Alternative 4 is the only alternative that removes toxic materials such as arsenic, a known poison for centuries. Because Alternative 6 leaves the soil toxic, predicted rising sea levels and potential of earthquakes increase the risk of a hazardous future. I summarize below a few of their comments which impact the future of the Edmonds Marsh restoration for which it seems the Revised Draft Feasibility Study ("Revised Study") has not directly addressed:

(1) The Revised Study failed to consider Public Concerns and Tribal Interests in the Edmonds Marsh restoration impeding its return to a functioning estuary for use by salmon and trout.

(2) The Revised Study failed to consider rising sea levels and potential earthquakes by only temporarily "capping" toxic material in the Alternative 6.

(3) What Chevron wants is to save money by leaving islands of toxic waste with the Unocal site. These toxic islands will be costly barrier requiring removal to create a channel opening to the Puget Sound as an estuary for salmon. Therefore, Chevron seems to be saying "if you want to restore the site to its historic use as an estuary for salmon recovery, you have to pay for the removal of toxic waste yourself."

The company activities brought intentionally into the estuary area toxic materials for its economic gain. It should not be permitted to leave such toxic trash close to the Puget Sound. Doing so prevents the property from being restored as a functioning estuary. Further, concerns about future rising sea levels and potential of earthquakes have not been adequately addressed by Alternative 6 which only temporarily limited the exposure by capping toxic materials but not removal.

In conclusion, the Unocal property should be restored to its original non-toxic condition. Don't let Chevron leave its toxic trash next to the Sound and between the Edmonds Marsh, Willow Creek flowage and the Sound.