marjorie Fields

The Ecology recommendation regarding cleanup of the Unocal property gives far too much weight to cost, more than all other criteria combined. Human impact, environmental impact, and citizen concerns about them must be considered at least equal to cost. Citizen comments at the public hearing clearly expressed outrage at the idea of protecting Chevron corporation from cleaning up the mess they made, and instead leaving it to future owners.

Additionally, state laws would be violated if Ecology's recommendation for Option 6 was implemented. Ecology guidance as well as state law requires preventing or minimizing future and present release of hazardous substances into the environment. Permanent solutions are needed, not plans based on rules about not disturbing capped hazardous areas. Permanent solutions are needed to keep high tides and storms from disturbing buried contamination and moving it to surface water. Anticipated sea level rise increases these dangers.

State law also requires that cleanup decisions be based on future use of the land. Different outcomes are needed for restoring salmon and other wildlife habitat to the area than if the previous plan for a ferry terminal hadn't been rejected.

Updated Ecology guidelines are clear that planning is to be done with consideration for impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, more severe storms and flooding. Permanent cleanup solutions are needed to meet this guideline, cap and cover would be a disaster waiting to happen.