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Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 12:37 PM

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Subject: SL5 Is the Only Responsible Path Forward for Rayonier Cleanup

To the Washington State Department of Ecology,

The time for half-measures is over. The Rayonier Mill site in Port Angeles has languished in a state of contamination and deferred accountability for decades. SL3 is not an acceptable solution—it's a temporary fix masquerading as progress.

At this week's special Port Angeles City Council meeting, residents, environmental experts, and community advocates spoke with remarkable unity: SL5 is the only viable path forward. SL3 proposes capping a contaminated 10-acre area, elevating the soil, fencing it off, and committing to thirty years of monitoring. This is containment—not remediation. Under SL3, development would be severely limited by physical constraints and long-term regulatory burdens, thwarting our Shoreline Master Plan and compromising public safety.

Moreover, it appears SL3's costs have been underestimated while SL5's have been inflated, downplaying its long-term value. SL5 would remove significantly more contaminated material and allow for unrestricted use of the land in alignment with modern urban planning standards and environmental justice goals.

Let's be honest about what's at stake. Although Rayonier is still zoned for heavy industrial use, our new Comprehensive Plan reimagines this waterfront as a vibrant mix of public space, recreation, commercial opportunity, clean industry, residential living, and ecological restoration. SL3 would strand this vision in bureaucratic purgatory. SL5, by contrast, opens the door to meaningful redevelopment—one that reflects the hopes and priorities of our community.

We urge the Department of Ecology to recognize the weight of this moment and reject SL3. Anything less than SL5 undermines environmental integrity and ignores the people of Port Angeles who are demanding a full and permanent cleanup.

Choose restoration. Choose accountability. Choose SL5.

Sincerely,

Kelly Johnson

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