

From: Jon Hamilton <hamilton.jon1116@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 11:50 PM

To: Abbett, Marian L. (ECY) <MABB461@ECY.WA.GOV>

Subject: Public Comment on Rayonier Mill Cleanup – Support for SL-5

Dear Ms. Abbett,

My name is Jon Hamilton, and I am a long-time Port Angeles resident and community member deeply invested in the future of our city and its environment. I am writing to submit my public comment on the proposed cleanup plans for the Rayonier Mill site.

I strongly urge the Washington State Department of Ecology to adopt **Option SL-5**, the only plan that ensures complete removal of toxic and contaminated soil from the site.

Anything less than full remediation—such as the currently recommended SL-3 option—would leave future generations burdened by the costs, risks, and limitations of a capped, contaminated site. The community has clearly expressed its desire for a permanent solution that restores the land, protects public health, supports salmon recovery, and allows for a meaningful and sustainable future reuse of the property.

The Rayonier site lies adjacent to the Elwha River and Ennis Creek—critical ecological and cultural corridors for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. We must do better by the river and by the Tribe, who have already invested decades into salmon restoration efforts in this region.

SL-5 is not just the most environmentally responsible option—it is also the most aligned with the community's long-term vision, as reflected in the City of Port Angeles Comprehensive Plan, which prioritizes a mixed-use future for this site.

The Department of Ecology has a responsibility to hold Rayonier accountable and to demonstrate leadership in climate-forward ecological restoration. Port Angeles deserves a real cleanup, not a shortcut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Hamilton

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