



July 23, 2025

Marian Abbett
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Via email: Marian.Abbett@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Port Angeles Rayonier Mill Cleanup Documents Comments

Dear Marian,

The [Clallam County Economic Development Council](#) is the county and state-designated economic agency for Clallam County. Clallam County is economically distressed by both federal and state measures. Our median income is only 60% of the state's average income. As such, our comments come through a lens of ensuring Clallam County sustains a healthy environment while allowing for opportunities for our citizens to have careers in high wage sectors. For Clallam County citizens that primarily means growth in Construction, Forest Products, Clean Energy, Manufacturing and Maritime Clusters which will aid in improving local access and attainability of home ownership and a better quality of life.

The Rayonier site needs to be available for productive high wage job use, and currently there are extremely limited growth opportunities for the above-mentioned clusters. This rare property can not only facilitate these high wage industry sectors we rely upon, but it also offers a critical waterfront interface. It is imperative that the portion of the site most capable of improving our local economic base is permanently cleaned to prevent impediments to incoming business opportunities. A seven-foot cap of contaminated material with an environmental covenant will not enable the success of future job creating uses. Over the decades there have been dozens of interested parties that would have liked to purchase the property for a clean industrial use if only the cleanup had been completed.

We applaud you for speeding up the process this year. We urge you to ensure that Rayonier can soon sell the property to a new user to be able to use this unique property for creation of high wage job opportunities at the site for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colleen McAleer", is positioned above the printed name.

Colleen McAleer
Executive Director