

League of Women Voters of Clallam County (Bonnie Bless-Boenish)

Attached is the comment from the League of Women Voters of Clallam County.
Thank you,
Bonnie

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Bonnie Bless-Boenish



Marian Abbett, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

August 9, 2025

Re: Port Angeles Rayonier Mill Public Comment

Marian Abbett,

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County wants to thank you for your public outreach opportunity on this important topic for our community. Since 1988 when voters passed I-97, an initiative written by the LWVWA and other environmental groups, the League had been a strong supporter of meaningful protection for public health and the environment.

The LWVCLA supports your statement that Rayonier must live up to the highest safety standards, to allow for a variety of future uses of the property. Alternative SL-5, requiring the removal of contaminated soil, is the only alternative that meets this goal. SL-5 thus provides the greatest benefit and is the only permanent environmental remedy for the Rayonier site. The City of Port Angeles, the Clallam County Commissioners and the Port Angeles Business Association all support the selection of Alternative SL-5.

During public hearings in Port Angeles, questions were raised regarding the cost/benefit analysis of these alternatives. Speakers were concerned that the cost for SL-3 was underestimated, and that the cost for SL-5 was overestimated. They were also concerned that "technical and administrative implementability" was over-scored for SL-3 and under-scored for SL-5. In addition, concerns were raised regarding the fencing of ten acres of the property, thirty years of post-construction monitoring, and the commitment to ongoing maintenance by the property-owner. Finally, a clean-up schedule of 7-10 years seemed optimistic, given the decades it took for the site to reach its current state. When an adequate schedule is set, the LWVCLA believes that the clean-up of Ennis Creek, its estuary and its riparian areas, should be given first priority.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the proposed clean-up of the Rayonier Mill site in Port Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helle Andersen".

Helle Andersen, Council of Directors,
League of Women Voters of Clallam County