

Debra Schouten

I am writing as a concerned citizen and a member of the Port Angeles community to express my strong support for Alternative SL5 for the cleanup of the former Rayonier mill site. This is a critical issue for the long-term health of our community and the unique marine habitat of our waterfront.

The Port Angeles waterfront is a vital resource and a home to critical species, including our endangered Southern Resident killer whales, salmon, and migratory birds. The contamination at the mill site, including PCBs, dioxin, and heavy metals, poses a significant and ongoing threat to this sensitive ecosystem.

Alternative SL3, which involves simply capping the site, is not a permanent solution. This temporary fix ignores the very real risks of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, earthquakes, and floods that could breach the cap and re-release pollutants into our waters.

A complete and permanent cleanup is long overdue. I urge you to select Alternative SL5, which involves the full removal of all contaminated soil. This is the only lasting solution that will truly protect our community and our environment for generations to come.

I believe the benefits of SL5 are vastly understated, and the costs of SL3 are not accurately estimated. The long-term health of our community is a benefit that cannot be measured in simple terms.

The Port Angeles waterfront needs this vital piece of real estate for economic development and protection and health of the marine environment. This property could be developed into a world class destination. It is devastating that a proper clean-up has not taken place after closing the mill 28 years ago. A delayed total clean-up proposal has continued year after year without adequate results. After all this time, here is another proposal for an additional 10 years offering an ineffective solution. The right action, solution and outcome are possible.

Please, for the sake of our community and our environment, choose Alternative SL5.

Sincerely,
Debra Schouten