Katherine Duff

I became involved in the cleanup of the Rayonier Mill site when they shut down and attempted to dispose of their toxic (dioxins, mercury, etc) facilities at the Mt Pleasant Landfill - to a height of about 60 feet. The contents of the sludge that was deposited to the landfill and left on the streets and access roads was verified through EPA testing. That was stopped but as we know the liners on those pits will at some point leak - they are not guaranteed to last forever. This leaves future residents to deal with possible hazardous materials leaching into their property. The buck was passed to future generations - again! The woman who lived on the access road to that dump, which was littered with sludge from the mill, developed multiple cancers, which is a sign of toxic exposures according to her doctor. She had small children. I remember attending meetings where her husband was begging for help from the state and Rayonier, but that never came.

The clean-up plan for the Mill site is proposed at the same inadequate, lazy, dangerous level as was permitted at the Mt. Pleasant landfill. Covering the toxic waste will only last so long before it starts leaching into the bay. This is another example of leaving the problem for future generations to clean.

It is time for the Rayonier Corporation to take responsibility for their mess. They enjoyed profits while operating here, fighting all pollution requirements. In order to save money they want to pass on their mess to future generations. They have stalled this for decades.

The only ethical, legal, and cost effective solution is to select Option 5 for a total clean-up of the site so it will be safe for residents, marine life, and future generations. Rayonier is already becoming a footnote in history books but their mess here continues. How is it even legal to knowingly leave a known health risk to people in the future who never benefitted from Rayonier's existence? Please select Option 5.