

CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

August 6, 2010

Most of the major activity this week revolved around the Rayonier property so I wanted to provide you with updated information on those related efforts. First of all, as reported at the Council meeting this week, the meeting with Jay Manning, the Governor's Chief of Staff, went well and met all of our expectations. Everyone in attendance at this meeting agreed that we need to continue to hold Rayonier fully responsible for all clean up costs. It was agreed that we would continue to explore possibilities for accelerated clean up actions. I have attached a document that was distributed at the meeting that outlines the history of the Department of Ecology and local entities to collaborate with the clean up and restoration of this site. Also is a copy of the Department of Ecology's press release which summarizes our discussion.

A meeting was held on August 5, to discuss a number of technical issues related to the site (see attached agenda). This was also a very positive and productive meeting which included representatives from both local Tribes, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Port, City and Harbor Works. Both Tribes expressed an interest in wanting to see clean up and job creation on the site to happen in the very near future and expressed concerns that the current process is taking too long. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe mentioned that they plan on presenting their conceptual plan for the restoration of Ennis Creek at a public meeting at the Heritage Center on August 17, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A lot of discussion focused on how we can all work together to move this plan forward and also get DNR to remove the pier and jetty. I was impressed with the spirit of cooperation expressed by all participants at this meeting and our commitment to move this process forward.

During that meeting I also reported on the City's progress on the CSO project and all of the participants expressed support for those recent efforts. I indicated that the coordination on this project between Rayonier, Ecology and the City was going well and the property negotiations were proceeding. City Engineer Steve Sperr provided an update on the design work and Ecology's recent approval for the City to use the existing Rayonier outfall line. City Attorney Bill Bloor reminded the group about the tremendous benefit that this project will provide in terms of helping to restore the health and ecology of the harbor.

In terms of other activities this week, a number of new commitments were secured on the effort to keep Hurricane Ridge Road open this winter. For example, the Olympic Tourism Commission agreed to fund a total of \$3125. Other commitments received this week included Kenmore Air and several local restaurants. On Monday there will be a meeting to determine the total commitments received and I will provide you an update report next week. However, it still appears that the funding requirement of \$75,000 will be met.

- Kent Myers

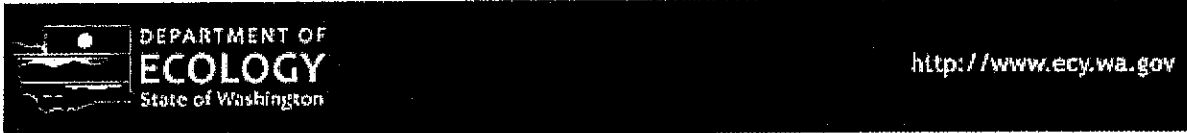
HISTORY

ECOLOGY AND PORT ANGELES COMMUNITY'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS RE RAYONIER MILL SITE

- **October, 2005**—City meets with Rayonier and expresses an interest in the Site and in promoting more rapid cleanup and redevelopment. City offers to take a leadership role.
- **April 17, 2006**—City writes again to Rayonier “express[ing] an interest in helping to get the former Rayonier Mill site in Port Angeles back into productive use” and acknowledging that “Rayonier management [has] encourage[d] our role in that process.”
- **2006**—City and Rayonier communications continue. Governor’s *Puget Sound Initiative* designates Port Angeles Harbor one of six high priority sites for cleanup and restoration activities.
- **April, 2007**—Legislature creates Puget Sound Partnership.
- **April 23, 2007**—City writes to Rayonier to inform it that “the City has been approached by Ecology with regards to Governor Gregoire’s *Puget Sound Initiative*” and that “Ecology has asked the City to bring together all interested stakeholders and facilitate a coordinated approach to the former Rayonier Mill Site.” The City notes that “through this effort, the cleanup will be completed faster; the community will recognize the care being taken to ensure that the environment will be protected; and economic opportunities and jobs will be created as this important component of the Port Angeles waterfront is revitalized.”
- **April-May 2007**—Ecology and the City negotiate a *Puget Sound Initiative* grant. The grant states that “Ecology wishes to engage the City of Port Angeles in a multiple-phased process to consider the impacts of potential cleanup actions on possible development and redevelopment options” and that “Ecology is desirous of approaching the cleanup process with awareness of overall community objectives for preserving and enhancing redevelopment, recreation and cultural opportunities.”
- **May 2007**—Press release announces Ecology grant and states that “the grant...is designed to speed cleanup and redevelopment of one of the region’s highest priority environmental restoration projects.”
- **Summer 2007**—City hosts multiple public forums and meets with representatives of over 30 stakeholder groups to develop community vision for Rayonier site.
- **October 18, 2007**—Ecology presents its Action Plan to the Port Angeles community, identifying the Harbor and Rayonier site for “early action” and highlighting that “urban cleanups are most effective when there’s early: 1) Partnering with local governments, community and private sector; 2) Development of a vision for environmental restoration

and future use of the property; and 3) Economic considerations: Financing and long-term benefits to the community.” Ecology also touts the ability to “Leverage Financial Resources” by “combin[ing] public and private sector resources; remedial action grants to local governments; [and] spend[ing] Ecology program dollars.”

- **February, 2008**—City unveils Conceptual Development Plan for Rayonier site.
- **Jan.-May, 2008**—Ecology and City discuss formation of a PDA to lead acquisition, cleanup and redevelopment of Rayonier site.
- **May 5, 2008**—Rayonier writes to the City “confirm[ing] the intent of Rayonier Properties, LLC to enter into good faith negotiations with a Public Development Authority, to be created by the City of Port Angeles and managed in conjunction with the Port of Port Angeles.”
- **May 20, 2008**—Authorizing legislative actions by City and Port to create a PDA (Harbor-Works). The stated intent is that “through this effort, the cleanup will be completed faster; the environment will be safer; jobs will be created and the public will have a larger say in the future of Port Angeles’ waterfront.”
- **2009**—City and Port each contribute \$650,000 (\$1.3 million total) to fund Harbor-Works due diligence and negotiating efforts.
- **2009**—Ecology awards \$200,000 planning grant to Harbor-Works to facilitate due diligence and community outreach.
- **Summer-Fall, 2009**—Harbor-Works board members and staff hold dozens of meetings with local tribes, other stakeholders, community leaders and organizations and various agencies with interests in the site.
- **November, 2009**—Harbor-Works unveils community-based vision for prompt remediation, Ennis Creek restoration, pier and jetty removal and redevelopment with a Native American cultural, anthropological and archeological institute as a centerpiece and with compatible mixed-use development.
- **Spring 2010**—Harbor-Works completes due diligence efforts.
- **March, 2010**—Rayonier negotiations stall over lack of sufficient funding for Harbor-Works to ensure its ability to perform on assumed environmental obligations.
- **March-August 2010**—Harbor-Works’ representatives meet with Governor’s staff, Ecology, DNR, and Puget Sound Partnership, seeking to consummate state partnership through MTCA grant funding and financial and program support for prompt upland interim actions, Ennis Creek restoration and removal of pier and jetty.



[Ecology home](#) > [News](#) > News Release

Department of Ecology News Release - August 3, 2010

10-192 (Revised)

This revision adds web links to Ecology news release 10-192.

Ecology statement on Harbor-Works meeting

OLYMPIA – The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) released the following statement after a meeting this morning with Gov. Chris Gregoire's office regarding state funding for the Port Angeles Harbor-Works Development Authority (Harbor-Works). The head of Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program Jim Pendowski said:

"All the participants at today's meeting understand that to be eligible for state funding, Harbor-Works needs to meet the same requirements as any other local government seeking cleanup grants. Ecology has been clear on this point.

"In Washington, our cleanup law is based on the principle that the polluter pays. We've been asked to consider if there are any options we can offer Harbor-Works that ensure Rayonier will pay for the cleanup, yet recognize the investment made by the Port Angeles community through Harbor-Works, and the value in having the cleanup managed by people who live and work in the Port Angeles area.

"At our meeting today we told representatives of Harbor-Works, the city and the port that while we are committed to the 'polluter pays' principle, we are also committed to working with Harbor-Works, within the limits of the law, to meet their goal of an expedited and locally managed cleanup, restoration and redevelopment.

"Ecology's work at the site will be guided by the following principles:

- The Rayonier cleanup is a top priority that will be completed in a safe and effective manner;
- We intend to ensure that the polluter – in this case, Rayonier – pays for the cost of the cleanup;
- We will work with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, on a government-to-government basis, as the cleanup proceeds;
- We will work with Harbor-Works, other local governments and other citizens to facilitate the legitimate interest in an expedited, locally managed cleanup, restoration and redevelopment."

For background information concerning the Rayonier cleanup, visit:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonier/rayonier_hp.htm (Added 8/4/10)

News stories about the Rayonier cleanup can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonier/news.html> (Added 8/4/10)

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**HarborWorks/Rayonier Mill Site
Coordination Meeting**

August 5, 2010

1:30-3:00 PM

**Vern Burton Meeting Room
Port Angeles City Hall**

Agenda

1. Welcome/Introductions - Jeff Lincoln (5 minutes)
2. DOE status of Agreed Order, harbor sediments study and off property study. (25 minutes)
3. Harbor-Works Status—10 minutes
4. Discussion of Ennis Creek restoration planning – 10 minutes
5. Discussion of DNR Lease status and actions by DNR – 10 minutes
6. Discussion of issues relating to the integration of upland remediation, Ennis Creek restoration and pier and jetty removal—20 minutes
7. Jamestown comments – 10 minutes
8. Lower Elwha comments – 10 minutes
9. General Discussion -
10. Adjourn

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