



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

July 8, 2024

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Director Watson,

We, the undersigned Tacoma leaders, are writing to voice our strong support for the June 12 proposal by WestRock CP, LLC ("WestRock"), Simpson Tacoma Kraft Company, LLC ("Simpson"), and International Paper Company ("IP") regarding the remediation of the Tacoma pulp and paper mill and adjacent Commencement Bay sediments (the "Site") which recommends separating the cleanup into two distinct parts: one for the mill property and one for the sediments.

Revitalizing the mill property is vital for Tacoma, a city that has long invested in rejuvenating its waterfront. Transforming this property into productive use will significantly boost the local economy and enhance community well-being, in line with Washington's objectives for industrial site redevelopment.

Dividing the Site into two separate parts will expedite the remediation. This strategy has proven successful in similar cases, such as Port Angeles Harbor and Port Gamble. The mill property and the sediments present distinct contamination challenges, making separate handling a logical approach.

Given the mill property's long-standing use and the companies' deep understanding of the operations and materials involved, the cleanup process can be streamlined. In contrast, sediment contamination is more intricate, involving multiple sources and necessitating coordination with federal agencies due to its location within the Commencement Bay Superfund Site.

By managing the cleanup in two distinct parts, we can benefit the community and the environment through a faster and more focused process. This approach will prevent the delays and complications of a single-order, supporting the broader efforts to clean up the Superfund Site while allowing tailored actions for both the mill property and the sediments.

In conclusion, the proposal by WestRock, IP, and Simpson to separate the cleanup into two parts is both practical and effective. We strongly urge Ecology to endorse this approach for a quicker and more efficient remediation process, we believe taking this approach is in the community's best interest.

Sincerely,

Mayor Victoria Woodards

Deputy Mayor John Hines – Position 1

Council Member Kristina Walker – Position 8

Council Member Joe Bushnell – Position 5

Council Member Kiara Daniels – Position 6

Council Member Olgy Diaz – Position 7

Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh – Position 2

Council Member Jamika Scott – Position 3