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FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Department
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; Geoffrey Smyth, P.E.,
Science and Engineering Division Manager
SUBJECT: Occidental Chemical Cleanup Site Update, Department of Ecology
DATE: February 15, 2017

M.P.S.

SUMMARY:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will be presenting an update at the February 22, 2017 meeting of the IPS Committee. The Feasibility Study for the cleanup of the contamination related to the Occidental Chemical property on the Hylebos Waterway is currently out for public comment through March 13, 2017. A public hearing on the site will be held in Tacoma on March 8, 2017. A representative from Ecology will be providing an overview of the Feasibility Study, and the next steps and timelines anticipated for completing the cleanup actions. This presentation is for information sharing purposes and no response from the Committee is required.

BACKGROUND:

The Occidental Chemical site, located at 605 Alexander Avenue, manufactured chlorine, bleach and other chemicals for the paper industry. The site was in operation between 1929 and 2002 and led to significant contamination on the site and in the surrounding area including the Hylebos Waterway. Numerous environmental studies have taken place on the site since 1988 to determine the extent and impacts of on-site and off-site contaminated soil, groundwater, sediment and soil vapor. The Remedial Investigation report was published for public comment between October 2015 and February 2016. The Feasibility Study establishing cleanup criteria and evaluating cleanup alternatives is currently out for public comment through March 13, 2017. Following finalization of the Feasibility Study, a Cleanup Action Plan will be developed.

ISSUE:

Because of the extensive contamination present at this site, and the potential for environmental impacts, the Environmental Services Department has been tracking this site closely. The intent of this briefing is to provide an updated site overview as well as an outline of next steps and timelines.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.