

Responsiveness Summary

Four Comments Received

Solid Wood Inc

Cleanup Site ID: 4228
Facility ID: 94656838
Address: 700 W Bay Drive NW, Olympia
County: Thurston

This report was prepared by:

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Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Region Office
Lacey, Washington

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's Solid Wood Inc webpage at: https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4228. The cover photo shows a 1992 aerial photo of the Solid Wood site from Ecology's Shoreline Coastal Atlas[1].

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Visit **ecology.wa.gov/ADA** for more accessibility information.

[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/shorephotoviewer/
[2] www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

2026 Solid Wood Inc Interim Action Public Comment Period

Solid Wood Inc is a cleanup site in West Olympia. This site was used as a lumber mill from 1925 to 1959. The Port of Olympia bought the site in 1963 and used it to store logs. Then, the Solid Wood plywood veneer mill operated from 1971 until the facility burned down in 2001.

Now, the City of Olympia owns the site and is the potentially liable person responsible for investigating and cleaning up toxic contamination at the site. Ecology oversees cleanup and partially funds the work through a remedial action grant. Removing toxic contamination is an important step towards the city's future vision of West Bay Park.

Three documents were available for public review:

Amendment to Agreed Order No. DE-08-TCPSR-5415[3] is a change to the legal agreement that Ecology and the City of Olympia entered in 2008. The change requires the city to carry out the interim action plan.

Interim Action Plan[4] is a plan to remove contaminated soil at the site. It is an interim action because it addresses part of the site.

State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance[5] is Ecology's determination that the interim action will not cause significant environmental harm. We considered environmental, historical, and cultural factors.

Public Notice Details

Ecology held a public comment period from July 9 at 8:00 AM to August 10 at 11:59 PM, 2026, for public review and comment on the Solid Wood Inc draft interim action plan, agreed order amendment, and State Environmental Policy Act determination of non-significance.

Ecology mailed a fact sheet with information about the public comment period to 617 addresses within 0.4 miles from the site. Ecology also emailed information about the public comment period to an email list of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, media, and interested parties. In addition to updating the project webpage, Ecology also added information about the public comment period to Ecology's main website, under "Public Input and Events". Ecology published notice of the comment period in the *Contaminated Site Register* on July 9, July 23, and August 6, 2026. Ecology published a legal ad in *The Olympian* on July 11, 2026.

We received four comments. These four comments and Ecology's responses are on pages 4-9. After reviewing comments, Ecology determined no changes to the public review documents are necessary and finalized the interim action plan. Ecology signed the Agreed Order Amendment with an effective date of August 24, 2026.

[3] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/172818
[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/172812
[5] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/172816

Comment from Bonnie Blessing

Date: August 4, 2026, 9:41 PM

Submit method: Website

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1) The SEPA says that waste would not be able to run off to surface waters. This does not make sense because Budd Inlet is RIGHT THERE and it sound likes you are excavating soils and the tracks.
2) The SEPA says there is no use of the area. However it is regularly used by recreationists crossing the rainbow bridge at south end. Homeless folks use the steep sides of the lagoon.
3) The SEPA says there are no proposed measures to protect fish or wildlife but this seems odd because there are fall chinook, great blue heron, etc.
4) Tribal folks sometimes fish just south of the rainbow bridge at south end of project. Please check in with the various tribal folks.
5) The lagoon adjoining this project was designed years ago by Gary Kline as a USFWS project. I believe that juvenile chinook would use the shorelines there in the lagoon and near the proposed excavation site. Can you please have USFWS and WDFW review if your project would alter the lagoon enhancement project?
6) We see madrone growing through the tracks that you are going to remove. Can you do a plant survey?
7) there are at least 3 other projects on the west side of Budd Inlet shoreline. West bay yards, West Bay Marina, another construction project?, Estuary restoration and possibly dredging at the Port. Consider cumulative effects of noise, traffic, sediment, fish and wildlife, estuary restoration, port operations, shoreline drift cell movement on forage fish and no net loss of shorelines etc. Get a fish and wildlife construction monitor to avoid impacts
8) there is a visual impact for the folks who cross the 4th or 5th ave bridges and those who live next to budd inlet and those who visit percival landing.

Ecology's response to Bonnie Blessing's comment

Thank you for your comment. Below are Ecology's responses to the questions in your comment letter. The goal of our responses is to answer questions, provide context, and document the decisions made after the public comment period.

Ecology's response to comments is organized under the same numbering used in the comment letter. Each section includes the questions from the comment letter with our response directly underneath.

Question #1:
The SEPA says that waste would not be able to run off to surface waters. This does not make sense because Budd Inlet is RIGHT THERE and it sound likes you are excavating soils and the tracks.

Ecology's Response:
The requirements in the Interim Action Plan will ensure that the work is done properly and there will not be any runoff into Budd Inlet surface water. While the spur is only about 60 feet wide at its

narrowest part in the work areas, we estimate the width of the excavation to be about 15 feet. The construction plans and specifications for the interim action will be carefully designed to avoid contamination entering either Budd Inlet or the adjacent lagoon.

Required permits and plans include an Ecology Construction Stormwater General Permit, construction plans and specifications, and a waste management plan.

Question #2:
The SEPA says there is no use of the area. However it is regularly used by recreationists crossing the rainbow bridge at south end. Homeless folks use the steep sides of the lagoon.

Ecology's Response:
The rainbow bridge is approximately 1250 feet south of the closest excavation work area. The SEPA Environmental Checklist answer to question 12 on page 4 states that the project area is in an undeveloped area. The SEPA Checklist on page 13 states that the area outside the park boundary is currently unoccupied and undeveloped. SEPA does not consider recreationists as occupants. We will take appropriate measures during excavation work to protect people.

Question #3:
The SEPA says there are no proposed measures to protect fish or wildlife but this seems odd because there are fall chinook, great blue heron, etc.

Ecology's Response:
The proposed project will not impact fish because the work will occur on land and no runoff will go into Budd Inlet surface water or the lagoon. Ecology will work to minimize effects of construction on wildlife such as great blue herons.

Question #4:
Tribal folks sometimes fish just south of the rainbow bridge at south end of project. Please check in with the various tribal folks.

Ecology's Response
Tribal engagement is an integral part of Ecology's responsibilities under the Model Toxics Control Act[6]. Before the start of the public comment period, Ecology contacted Tribes about the proposed interim action at this site.

Question #5:
The lagoon adjoining this project was designed years ago by Gary Kline as a USFWS project. I believe that juvenile chinook would use the shorelines there in the lagoon and near the proposed excavation site. Can you please have USFWS and WDFW review if your project would alter the lagoon enhancement project?

[6] Washington Administrative Code Chapter 173-340-620 describes Ecology's Tribal engagement responsibilities that relate to cleaning up contaminated sites. This text is available online at https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620

Ecology's Response:
There are no in-water or sediment components of this interim action, all work will be conducted on land. The Interim Action Plan has requirements and engineering controls[7] that will prevent any impact on the lagoon or Budd Inlet.

This project will not alter the lagoon enhancement project. Also, Ecology is not aware of federal or state regulations that would require consultation with USFWS or WDFW staff for this project. Removing contaminated soil from the site will be a net improvement to the area.

Question #6:
We see madrone growing through the tracks that you are going to remove. Can you do a plant survey?

Ecology's Response:
We will avoid removing trees when possible. If any trees need to be removed, the city will either obtain a City of Olympia Tree Removal Permit or ensure the work complies with the substantive requirements of this permit.[8]

Question #7:
There are at least 3 other projects on the west side of Budd Inlet shoreline. West bay yards, West Bay Marina, another construction project?, Estuary restoration and possibly dredging at the Port. Consider cumulative effects of noise, traffic, sediment, fish and wildlife, estuary restoration, port operations, shoreline drift cell movement on forage fish and no net loss of shorelines etc. Get a fish and wildlife construction monitor to avoid impacts.

Ecology's Response:
Because the project has small work areas and limited use of operating equipment over a short duration of time, the effects of noise and traffic will be minimal. The short timeline for this project will likely not overlap with other major nearby projects.

The excavation work will not have any effect on shorelines or aquatic life.

Question #8:
There is a visual impact for the folks who cross the 4th or 5th ave bridges and those who live next to budd inlet and those who visit percival landing.

Ecology's Response:
We expect construction work to start in March 2027 and take less than two months to complete. Planning tasks such as soil sampling and checking the structural integrity of the trestle bridge will

[7] Engineering controls (e.g., health and safety controls, stormwater controls, temporary erosion and sediment controls, spill prevention and controls, dust controls, Site controls, traffic controls, noise controls) will be used during interim action construction activities.
[8] WAC 173-340-710(9)(b) states that under RCW 70A.305.090, remedial actions conducted under a consent decree, order, or agreed order, and the department when it conducts a remedial action, are exempt from the procedural requirements of certain laws. This exemption applies to local permits such as the City of Olympia Tree Removal Permit. However, remedial actions exempt from procedural requirements still must comply with the substantive requirements of local permits.

occur in September 2026. Any visual impacts during construction will be temporary and minimal due to the small work areas and limited use of operating equipment.

After the interim action, workers will backfill excavated areas with clean soil to restore these areas to their previous condition. West Bay Park will remain open and will not be impacted by the work.

Comment from Beth Redfield

Date: July 15, 2026, 10:26 AM
Submit method: Website

The Solid Wood Inc cleanup provides an opportunity for the city to improve the footpath from West Bay Park to Capitol Lake and downtown. To the extent that the contractor must make the two trestles safer for their employees to carry out the cleanup work, these improvements should be left in place at project completion.

While the city has admirable plans to improve this waterfront parkland, the plans are complex and expensive and not likely to deliver a multi-use path from West Bay Park to Capitol Lake for some time. In the meantime, people are using the path. With this project, the city can achieve many objectives at once: increasing the safety of the existing path, improving pedestrian connections within the city, as well as removing hazardous waste on our shoreline.

Comment from Thomas Banse

Date: July 13, 2026, 4:20 PM
Submit method: Website

Public comment on Solid Wood Inc cleanup

The Solid Wood Inc cleanup has the potential to leave a dual legacy: removal of an environmental hazard AND opening a safer footpath through prime city parkland that has been theoretically off limits to the taxpayers for far too long. Please slightly revise the draft cleanup action plan to specify an additional desired cleanup result of an interim foot trail that is immediately useable once the clean fill has been emplaced on site. As you have likely observed, Olympia residents routinely take advantage of the abandoned rail spur to enjoy the water views and stroll in peace between Capitol Lake and West Bay Park – despite the warning signs. The footfalls of thousands of people have pounded out a decent trail along the Budd Inlet shore through the Solid Wood parcel and rail causeway. If the cleanup planners and contractors pay heed, this footpath could be the precursor to the fabulous multi-use trail and boardwalk that is envisioned there in the distant future under the city's plans for an expanded West Bay Park. The biggest hurdles in the way of greater near-term public use of this trail corridor, besides the pending cleanup, are the two deteriorating trestles. I was glad to see that the cleanup action plan calls for the contractor to assess the north trestle and presumably install some decking and railings to gain access to part of the jobsite. Please specify in

the finalized cleanup action plan that the trestle improvements including the decking be retained when the contractor demobilizes!

Additionally, it would be great if the cleanup specifications directed the selected contractor to save leftover boards, decking, fencing and/or railing material that could be used to give the same temporary crossing treatment to the other trestle on the property, the Rainbow trestle. Ideally, the city's can-do Public Works staff – or perhaps an Eagle Scout service project – could then take these already-paid-for construction materials and make the Rainbow trestle less daunting to cross next spring.

There is a golden opportunity here to leverage this cleanup to achieve an early win in the next phase of park development at no additional cost. I hope you will seize it.

Thank you,
Thomas Banse
West Bay Park neighbor

Ecology's response to Beth Redfield's and Thomas Banse's comments

Thank you for your comments and support for removing hazardous waste near the shoreline.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program authority does not include recommendations or requirements on land use unless it is for the purpose of preventing exposure to contaminated materials. Therefore, Ecology cannot make changes to the Interim Action Plan regarding improvements to the foot trail or decking. Likewise, it is not within our authority to specify changes to the cleanup specifications regarding reuse of leftover materials.

While improving the footpath is outside of the Toxic Cleanup Program's authority, we have forwarded these two comments to the City of Olympia for their consideration.

Comment from Abi Roberts, Olympic Region Clean Air Agency

Date: July 13, 2026, 8:08 AM
Submit method: Email

Good morning,

The project scope indicates soil remediation, if remediation activities occur at the site, it is possible that a Notice of Construction (NOC) will be required. I have included three focus sheets: two that cover when a NOC is required and the timeline, and one focus sheet indicating remediation technologies that require permitting with ORCAA. More information can be found on our website: https://www.orcaa.org/for-business/business-assistance/ underneath the soil remediation tab.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

Best Regards,

Abi Roberts, Engineer I

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Olympic Region Clean Air Agency
2940 Limited Lane NW Olympia, WA 98502 Office – (360) 539-7610
www.orcaa.org

Please take notice that any records or communications with ORCAA are subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56) unless exempt under applicable law.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Ecology's response

Thank you for sending us this information about ORCAA Notice of Construction permitting.

Ecology ensures that Ecology-supervised projects comply with the Washington Clean Air Act. The proposed soil remediation work at the Solid Wood Inc Site (excavation and offsite disposal) does not use remediation technologies that require permitting with ORCAA (aeration, air stripping, air sparging, soil vapor extraction, and air pollution controls).