

# I & J Waterway Site



I & J Waterway and Bellingham waterfront, May 2019

## Comments accepted

August 28 – September 26, 2023

## Submit comments

Online at:

<http://www.bit.ly/Ecology-IJWaterway-Comments-2023>

Or by mail to:

Lucy McInerney, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
PO Box 330316  
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716  
425-410-1400

[Lucy.McInerney@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Lucy.McInerney@ecy.wa.gov)

## Document review

[www.bit.ly/Ecology-IJWaterway](http://www.bit.ly/Ecology-IJWaterway)

Bellingham Public Library  
210 Central Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

For document review assistance,  
please contact:

Kristen Forkeutis,  
Outreach Specialist  
[Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov)  
425-240-4353

## Site info

Facility Site ID: 3145643  
Site Cleanup ID: 2012

## Legal agreements ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review two legal agreements for the cleanup of the I & J Waterway Site (Site) on the Bellingham waterfront. The agreements address each of the two Sediment Cleanup Units (SCU-1 and SCU-2) that comprise the Site.

The agreements available for review are:

- **Consent Decree, SCU-1.** This agreement between Ecology, the Port of Bellingham (Port) and Bornstein Seafoods (Bornstein) requires the Port and Bornstein to complete engineering design and construct the cleanup action for SCU-1. It includes an updated version of a cleanup action plan (CAP) finalized by Ecology in 2019.
- **Agreed Order, SCU-2.** This agreement between Ecology and the Port requires the Port to design the cleanup action for SCU-2. It includes the same updated CAP as the consent decree for SCU-1.

## On-site walking tour

RE Sources will host a shoreline walking tour of the Site to provide project information and answer questions. Ecology and Port staff will also be available for questions.

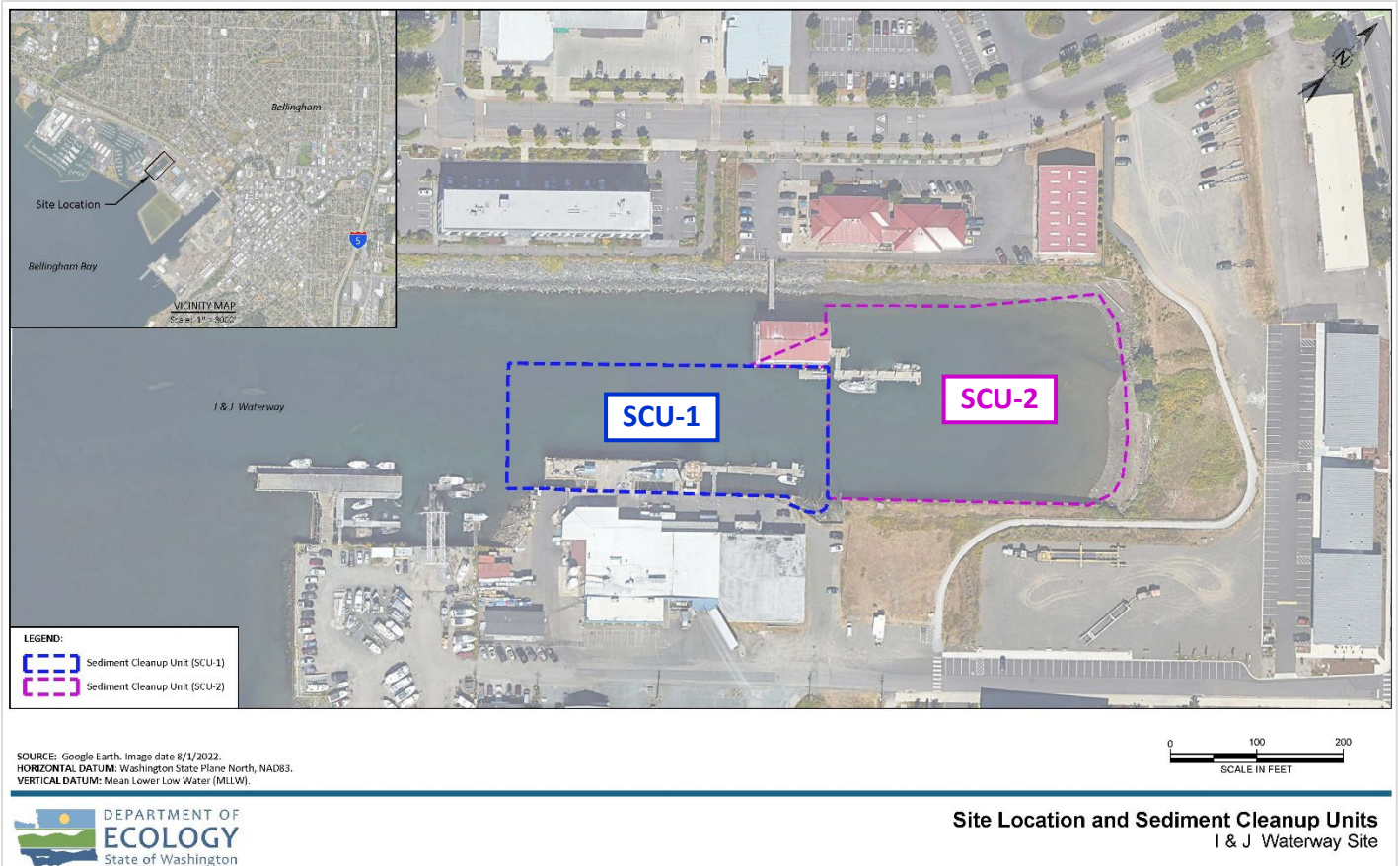
**Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

- **Meet at 28 Bellwether Way, Bellingham, WA 98225**
- For details and an informational video, visit: [www.re-sources.org/ijwaterway](http://www.re-sources.org/ijwaterway)
- This walking tour is funded by a Public Participation Grant from Ecology.

## Site location and Sediment Cleanup Units

The Site is the in-water area of Bellingham Bay between Hilton Avenue and Bellwether Way, in Bellingham Washington. The State of Washington owns most of the Site.

The Site consists of two Sediment Cleanup Units, SCU-1 (1.3 acres) and SCU-2 (1.8 acres).



### En español

El Departamento de Ecología le invita a comentar sobre un reporte ambiental para el sitio que está contaminado I & J Waterway en Bellingham. Si le gustaría recibir este documento en español, por favor llame a 425-324-5901 y espere que un intérprete se una a la llamada o envíe un correo electrónico a [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov). Traducciones de avisos públicos para los sitios de limpieza de la Bahía de Bellingham se preparan bajo solicitud.



**LEGEND:**

- Sediment Cleanup Unit (SCU-1)
- Sediment Cleanup Unit (SCU-2)
- Dredging
- Capping (3-Foot Minimum Thickness)
- Monitoring of Naturally-Forming Cap (After Placing 6-inch Thick Sand Layer)
- Monitoring of Naturally-Forming Cap



**Cleanup Action Plan**  
I & J Waterway Site

SOURCE: Google Earth, Image date 8/1/2022.  
HORIZONTAL DATUM: Washington State Plane North, NAD83.  
VERTICAL DATUM: Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).





I & J Waterway looking toward Bellingham Bay, May 2019

## Cleanup Action Plan

In April 2019, following public review and comment, Ecology finalized a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the Site (SCU-1 and SCU-2). The CAP was part of a legal agreement (agreed order) which required the Port and Bornstein to design the cleanup action for the SCU-1 portion of the Site.

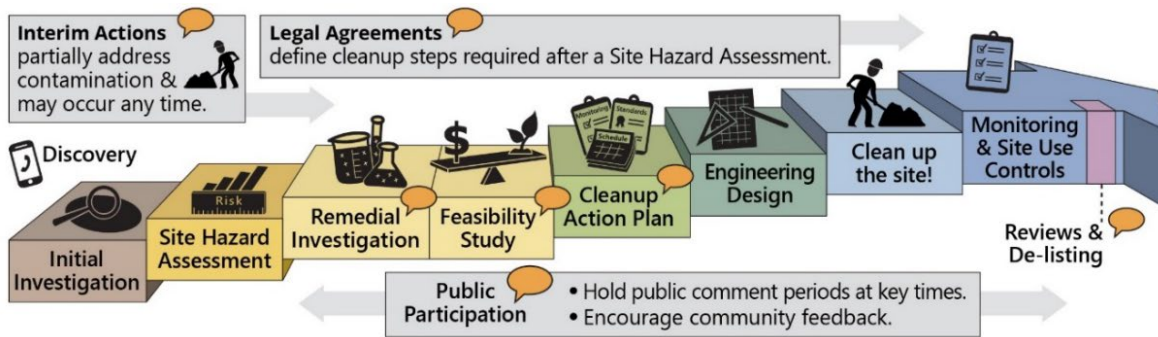
The legal agreement (consent decree) currently available for public review requires the Port and Bornstein to complete design and construct the cleanup action for SCU-1. The consent decree includes an updated CAP reflecting details from the design work that has occurred since 2019 for SCU-1, however the general cleanup action for SCU-1 remains the same as the 2019 CAP and includes:

- Dredging about 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment with disposal at a permitted upland landfill. The sediment removal requires replacement of the existing dock and bulkhead.
- Monitoring following construction to ensure the cleanup addressed the contamination.

The other legal agreement (agreed order) also currently available for public review requires the Port to design the cleanup action for SCU-2 and includes the same updated CAP as the consent decree discussed above. The elements of the updated CAP pertaining to SCU-2 remain the same as the 2019 CAP and include:

- Capping a 0.7-acre area with clean material to isolate contaminated sediment.
- Monitoring a 1.1-acre area where clean material from the Nooksack River is naturally capping contaminated sediment. This will verify that contaminant levels continue to decrease.
- Monitoring following construction to ensure that cleanup activities addressed the contamination.
- Administrative controls on about 2 acres to prevent disturbance of the capped areas.

## What happens next?



Washington’s formal [cleanup process](#)<sup>1</sup> is shown in the graphic above. The SCU-1 portion of the Site is in the engineering design and clean up construction steps. The SCU-2 portion of the Site is in the engineering design step. The timeline to complete these steps and begin construction is outlined below:

- **August 28 to September 26, 2023:** Public comment period.
- **Fall 2023:** Ecology responds to public comments received.
- **Winter 2023:** Complete engineering design documents for SCU-1. Begin engineering design for SCU-2.
- **Summer 2024:** Begin construction of the cleanup action for SCU-1.
- **2026:** Begin construction of the cleanup action for SCU-2.

Construction of the cleanup action for the SCU-2 portion of the Site will occur under a future legal agreement which will be issued for public review.

## Cost and funding

Construction of the cleanup action for SCU-1 is expected to cost about \$20 million. The Port and Bornstein are funding partners for the cleanup of SCU-1. Construction of the cleanup action for SCU-2 is expected to cost about \$7 million.

The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of their costs from Ecology through the state’s remedial action grant program. This funding helps to pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

## Contamination

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates, phenols, and nickel are present in marine sediment. These contaminants are related to historic industrial activities, including lumber mill operations, rock crushing, and food/seafood processing. A building fire also likely contributed to the contamination.

Other contaminants such as dioxins/furans, polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), and mercury were also found at the Site. Dioxins/furans are present throughout Bellingham Bay from many possible sources including former pulp and paper mills and wood treating operations, and on-going burning activities. Mercury is related to past discharges from the Georgia-Pacific Pulp Mill. The source of PCBs is unknown.



I & J Waterway facing northwest, April 1980; Washington State Archives

<sup>1</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

Toxics Cleanup Program  
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101  
Bellingham, WA 98225

## I & J Waterway Site

### Legal agreements ready for public review

*Información en español incluida (página 2)*

#### Public comment period

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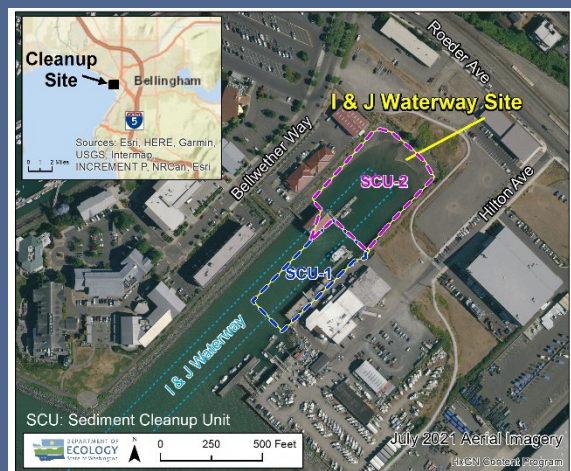
See page 1 for details

#### ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-240-4353 or email at [kristen.forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kristen.forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov), or visit [ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility](http://ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility). For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington



Aerial view of I & J Waterway cleanup site