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## Press Release

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### PORT CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO CLEAN UP EAST BAY

The Port of Olympia is prepared to enter the formal cleanup process for the East Bay redevelopment through an Agreed Order with the Washington Department of Ecology. The Port has been working with Ecology through the Voluntary Cleanup Program since December 2006.

In December 2007, the Port submitted a draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), including a conceptual Cleanup Action Plan (CAP), to the Washington Department of Ecology under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) for the East Bay redevelopment area in downtown Olympia. The RI/FS and CAP included the results of studies of contamination in the area and proposed a recommended approach to address these issues.

The Port has received an Opinion Letter from Ecology regarding the RI/FS. The letter indicates the need for additional characterization to define the extent of soil contamination at the site, specifically dioxins and ground water contamination. In addition, Ecology requests more detail concerning how impermeable liners and/or capping with clean soil would provide adequate protection and asks that other alternatives be explored that would involve removal of diesel and motor oil contaminated soil.

Port staff has met with Ecology and initiated discussions about moving the cleanup into the formal cleanup program beginning with an Agreed Order. If the project becomes a formal cleanup site with Ecology, a remedial investigation work plan will be developed that will outline additional work necessary to characterize the site and could also define steps of an Interim Action to allow development to proceed on the site this summer.

Construction of infrastructure by the Port, including roads and utilities, is anticipated this summer. Work on the LOTT Alliance administrative and education facility is expected to begin in July 2008 on its existing Budd Inlet Treatment Plant site. The Hands On Children's Museum is targeting construction of a new museum in 2009.

An Agreed Order would formalize Ecology’s approval of executing cleanup actions before they begin and makes the Port eligible for up to 50 percent state funding through the state’s remedial action grant program.

“The Agreed Order makes sense. It’s the same process we’re using at the West Bay Park and new city hall sites,” said Olympia City Manager Steve Hall.

“The Port appreciates Ecology’s responsiveness to the importance of this project,” said Port Executive Director Ed Galligan. “We look forward to working in partnership as we have done successfully in other cleanup activities.”

Located between Marine Drive NE, State Avenue and South Adams Street in downtown Olympia, the East Bay area is anticipated to be redeveloped over time as a vibrant urban center. Projects planned for the area include a new location for the Hands On Children’s Museum in conjunction with the City of Olympia, development of an adjacent administrative and education center and expansion of the treatment plant by the LOTT Alliance, and other commercial development by the Port.

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**About the Port of Olympia**

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County’s partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.