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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **PORT OF OLYMPIA SUBMITS DRAFT CLEAN UP ACTION PLAN FOR EAST BAY REDEVELOPMENT AREA TO ECOLOGY**

The Port of Olympia has completed a draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the 14-acre East Bay Redevelopment area, which includes a conceptual Cleanup Action Plan (CAP). The study and action plan were submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology under the Voluntary Cleanup Plan (VCP) program on December 21. The goal of the action proposed in the plan is to make the site fully open to the general public.

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

The independent study done by GeoEngineers found a variety of contaminants that are consistent with the use of the site by various owners and users over the past 80 years. These include elevated levels of petroleum products in the soil, lead, arsenic, and dioxin below industrial cleanup action levels.

A number of alternatives were explored to address these issues. The recommended Port plan calls for the removal of some petroleum contaminated soils to protect groundwater, and capping the site with combinations of building footprints, parking areas, streets and caps under landscaped areas to prevent contact with the low levels of contaminants. Additionally, the Port recommends that the site be placed under a long-term ground water monitoring program. These

remedies have been found to be effective in protecting human health and environment and have been used extensively in many projects around the state.

Relative costs of the various alternatives compared to their effectiveness in addressing contamination on the site are noted in the report. For example, one alternative would be to fully remove all the contaminated soils. However, the report indicates that the same level of benefit could be achieved at a lower cost by the recommended Port approach. The probable cost of the remedy recommended by the Port to Ecology is estimated at between \$1.3 and \$2.3 million, excluding the parcel being sold to LOTT.

Under the Voluntary Cleanup Plan program, Ecology now has 90 days to provide an opinion of the report and the action plan. Once Ecology has provided an opinion, the Port, its public partners and the other developers will be able to move forward with projects, such as the streets and other common areas and individual parcels of land.

“This is an opportunity to begin clean-up of this vital part of downtown,” said Ed Galligan, Port Executive Director. “The ultimate goal is clean-up of the entire property for community benefit.” The entire report and action plan are posted on the Port’s website at [http://www.portolympia.com/about/environmental\\_reviews](http://www.portolympia.com/about/environmental_reviews).

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