

HON. JAMES L. ROBERT

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE,

Plaintiff,

v.

RAINIER PETROLEUM CORP.,

Defendant.

Case No. 14-00829

**CONSENT DECREE**  
[PROPOSED]

**I. STIPULATIONS**

Plaintiff Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (“Soundkeeper”) sent a sixty day notice of intent to sue letter to Defendant Rainier Petroleum Corporation (“Rainier Petroleum”) on April 1, 2014, alleging violations of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq., relating to discharges of stormwater from Rainier Petroleum’s Facility in Seattle, Washington and seeking declaratory and injunctive relief, civil penalties and attorneys fees and costs.

Soundkeeper and Rainier Petroleum agree that settlement of these matters is in the best interest of the parties and the public, and that entry of this Consent Decree is the most appropriate means of resolving this action.

Soundkeeper and Rainier Petroleum stipulate to the entry of this Consent Decree without trial regarding Soundkeeper’s claims or allegations set forth in its complaint and its sixty-day


1 notice.

2 DATED this January 7, 2016

3 RAINIER PETROLEUM CORP.

4 PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE

5 By \_\_\_\_\_

5 By  \_\_\_\_\_

6 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

6 Chris Wilke  
7 Title: Executive Director & Soundkeeper

8 **II. ORDER AND DECREE**

9 THIS MATTER came before the Court upon the Parties' Joint Motion for Entry of  
10 Consent Decree and the foregoing Stipulations of the parties. Having considered the Stipulations  
11 and the promises set forth below, the Court hereby ORDERS, ADJUDGES, and DECREES as  
12 follows:

13 1. This court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this action.

14 2. Each signator for the parties certifies for that party that he or she is authorized to  
15 enter into the agreements set forth below.

16 3. This Consent Decree applies to and binds the parties and their successors and  
17 assigns.

18 4. This Consent Decree applies to the operation, oversight, or both by Defendant  
19 Rainier Petroleum of its Facility at 1711 13th Avenue Southwest, Seattle, Washington (the  
20 "*Facility*").

21 5. This Consent Decree is a full and complete settlement of the claims in the  
22 complaint and all other claims known and unknown existing as of the date of entry of this  
23 Consent Decree, that could be asserted under the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387,  
24 arising from operations of the Facility. These claims are released and dismissed with prejudice.  
25 Enforcement of this decree is Soundkeeper's exclusive remedy for any violation of its terms.

26 6. This Consent Decree is a settlement of disputed facts and law. It is not an

1 notice.

2 DATED this January 7, 2016

3 RAINIER PETROLEUM CORP.

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE

4 By 

5 By \_\_\_\_\_

6 Title: Vice President

Chris Wilke

Title: Executive Director & Soundkeeper

7  
8 **II. ORDER AND DECREE**

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12 follows:

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24 arising from operations of the Facility. These claims are released and dismissed with prejudice.  
25 Enforcement of this decree is Soundkeeper's exclusive remedy for any violation of its terms.

26 6. This Consent Decree is a settlement of disputed facts and law. It is not an

1 admission or adjudication regarding any allegations by Soundkeeper in this case or of any fact or  
2 conclusion of law related to those allegations.

3 7. Rainier Petroleum agrees to the following terms and conditions in full and  
4 complete satisfaction of the claims covered by this decree:

5 a. Rainier Petroleum will comply fully with all conditions of its National  
6 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WAR002721 (the “*NPDES permit*”)  
7 and any successor, modified, or replacement permit;

8 b. Not later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will install an impervious  
9 floor in its tank farm containment area consisting of Portland cement, which will be  
10 consistent with Harbor Consulting Engineers’ December 17, 2015 tank farm stormwater  
11 improvement drawings for the Facility and will be engineered to drain any stormwater that  
12 collect within the tank farm containment area into the Facility’s above ground oil/water  
13 separator that discharges to the sanitary sewer. Rainier Petroleum will ensure that the  
14 berm surrounding the tank farm provides a containment volume of either 10 percent of the  
15 total enclosed tank volume or 110 percent of the volume contained in the largest tank,  
16 whichever is greater;

17 c. Rainier Petroleum will store all portable containers of liquid and petroleum  
18 product in the Facility’s warehouse when not in use, including containers that are awaiting  
19 customer pick-up;

20 d. Rainier Petroleum will relocate cleaning activities that involve wash water  
21 or washing solutions to areas of the Facility that drain to the sanitary sewer;

22 e. Not later than the date of entry of this Consent Decree, Rainier Petroleum  
23 will redirect discharges of stormwater from its boiler building and warehouse roofs to the  
24 Facility’s below-ground oil/water separator or to the sanitary sewer;

25 f. Not later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will implement measures  
26 to prevent any stormwater from the portion of Pier 15 (also known as the Facility’s fueling

1 dock or pier) on which Rainier Petroleum operates (approximately the western half of the  
2 pier) from discharging to Elliott Bay. Rainier Petroleum will plug the existing holes in its  
3 pier that presently discharge directly to Elliott Bay, install curbs, berms, and/or barriers as  
4 required to prevent sheet flow of stormwater from its portion of the pier to Elliott Bay, and  
5 otherwise ensure adequate stormwater collection and conveyance infrastructure exists to  
6 capture the stormwater from the portion of the pier on which Rainier Petroleum operates  
7 and direct it to the sanitary sewer. Not later than June 30, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will  
8 send Soundkeeper written confirmation describing the measures taken to implement the  
9 requirements of this paragraph.

10 g. Not later than May 15, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will complete and submit  
11 to the Department of Ecology an engineering report providing for installation of a  
12 Chitosan-enhanced sand filtration system to treat all stormwater runoff from the Facility  
13 that discharges to Elliott Bay, in accordance with NPDES Permit condition S8.D.3.a;

14 h. Not later than September 30, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will install a  
15 Chitosan-enhanced sand filtration system to treat all stormwater runoff from the Facility  
16 that discharges to Elliott Bay, in accordance with an engineering report that has been  
17 approved by the Department of Ecology. Not later than the date of installation of the  
18 filtration system, Rainier Petroleum will update its stormwater pollution prevention plan  
19 (“SWPPP”) to reflect the changes to the Facility’s stormwater management;

20 i. Not later than the date of entry of this Consent Decree, Rainier Petroleum  
21 will amend its SWPPP to:

22 i. Mandate vacuum-assisted sweeping of the paved surfaces of the  
23 Facility a minimum of once each month;

24 ii. Include the Facility’s oil spill response plan;

25 iii. Include a provision prohibiting the locking of fuel nozzles in the  
26 “open” position or an explanation of why this mandatory BMP is inapplicable;

1                   iv.       Include provisions for the annual employee training required by  
2 NPDES Permit Condition S3.B.4.b.i.5, and a log of the training dates and attendees.  
3 Specifically, the training plan must be updated and approved by a qualified stormwater  
4 consultant and must include training in sampling protocols, the Permit requirements,  
5 enhanced sampling requirements set forth in this Consent Decree, and Department of  
6 Ecology’s guidance document “How to do Stormwater Sampling”; and

7                   v.       Include a materials list that identifies all of the specialty chemicals  
8 handled at the Facility.

9                   j.       Not later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will amend its SWPPP  
10 map to include each of the Facility’s discharge locations with a unique identifying number  
11 surface water locations, and lands and waters adjacent to the site that are helpful in  
12 identifying discharge points or drainage routes.

13                  k.       Not later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Rainier Petroleum will amend its SWPPP  
14 sampling plan to identify and provide for quarterly sampling at each of the Facility’s  
15 points of discharge to Elliott Bay, and to identify the primary individual responsible for  
16 collecting stormwater samples and reporting the results to the Department of Ecology, and  
17 at least one alternate.

18                  l.       Rainier Petroleum will conduct enhanced stormwater sampling by  
19 sampling discharges from each of the Facility’s points of discharge to Elliott Bay during at  
20 least two different storm events (i.e., separated by at least 24 hours without precipitation)  
21 in the first, second, and fourth quarters of 2016, and first quarter of 2017.

22                  m.       Not later than May 13, 2016, Rainier Petroleum employees with NPDES  
23 Permit compliance responsibilities who have not already attended a 100 and 101-level  
24 Industrial Stormwater Management Workshop hosted by the Environmental Coalition of  
25 South Seattle will do so.

26                  8.       Until the date of termination of this Consent Decree as prescribed in paragraph 13

1 below, Rainier will forward all correspondence to and from the Department of Ecology, and all  
2 documents provided to the Department of Ecology, related to the NPDES Permit, to Soundkeeper  
3 on a quarterly basis.

4 Not later than June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, Rainier Petroleum will send Soundkeeper a copy of its  
5 updated SWPPP.

6 9. Not later than 7 days after the entry of this Consent Decree, Rainier Petroleum will  
7 pay \$540,000.00 (FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) to Smith & Lowney,  
8 PLLC, 2317 E. John Street, Seattle, Washington 98112, attn: Knoll Lowney, to be deposited into  
9 the Smith & Lowney PLLC trust account and distributed as follows:

10 a. Soundkeeper's reasonable attorney and expert fees and costs in an amount be  
11 determined by mediator and retired King County Superior Court judge Bruce Hilyer upon review  
12 and receipt of the attorneys' and experts' invoices, and not to exceed \$260,000.00 (TWO  
13 HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS). This payment will be full and complete  
14 satisfaction of any claims Soundkeeper may have under the Clean Water Act for fees and costs.

15 b. Smith & Lowney PLLC will direct \$540,000 less the amount of attorney and  
16 expert fees and costs set forth in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph 9 (i.e. at least TWO  
17 HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$280,000)) to the Puget Sound Stewardship and  
18 Mitigation Fund of the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, as described in  
19 **Attachment A** of this Consent Decree, for environmental benefit projects in the Duwamish River  
20 and Puget Sound watersheds. Payment will be made to the order of and delivered to The Rose  
21 Foundation for Communities and the Environment. Payment shall include the following  
22 reference in a cover letter or on the check: "Consent Decree, PSA v. Rainier Petroleum Pier 15."  
23 A copy of the check and cover letter, if any, shall be sent simultaneously to: Rainier Petroleum.

24 10. A force majeure event is any event outside the reasonable control of Rainier  
25 Petroleum that causes a delay in performing tasks required by this decree that cannot be cured by  
26 due diligence. Delay in performance of a task required by this decree caused by a force majeure



1 event is not a failure to comply with the terms of this decree, provided that Rainier Petroleum  
2 notifies Soundkeeper of the event; the steps that Rainier Petroleum will take to perform the task;  
3 the projected time that will be needed to complete the task; and the measures that have been taken  
4 or will be taken to prevent or minimize any impacts to stormwater quality resulting from delay in  
5 completing the task.

6 Rainier Petroleum will notify Soundkeeper of the occurrence of a force majeure event as  
7 soon as reasonably possible but, in any case, no later than fifteen days after the occurrence of the  
8 event. In such event, the time for performance of the task will be extended for a reasonable  
9 period of time following the force majeure event.

10 By way of example and not limitation, force majeure events include

- 11 a. Acts of God, war, insurrection, or civil disturbance;  
12 b. Earthquakes, landslides, fire, floods;  
13 c. Actions or inactions of third parties over which defendant has no control;  
14 d. Restraint by court order or order of public authority;  
15 e. Strikes; and  
16 f. Litigation, arbitration, or mediation that causes delay.

17 11. This court retains jurisdiction over this matter. And, while this decree remains in  
18 force, this case may be reopened without filing fee so that the parties may apply to the Court for  
19 any further order that may be necessary to enforce compliance with this decree or to resolve any  
20 dispute regarding the terms or conditions of this decree. In the event of a dispute regarding  
21 implementation of, or compliance with, this decree, the parties must first attempt to resolve the  
22 dispute by meeting to discuss the dispute and any suggested measures for resolving the dispute.  
23 Such a meeting should be held as soon as practical but must be held within thirty (30) days after  
24 notice of a request for such a meeting to the other party and its counsel of record. If no resolution  
25 is reached at that meeting or within thirty (30) days of the notice, whichever occurs first, either  
26 party may file a motion with this court to resolve the dispute. The provisions of section 505(d) of



1 the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), regarding awards of costs of litigation (including  
2 reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any prevailing or substantially prevailing party,  
3 shall apply to any proceedings seeking to enforce the terms and conditions of this Consent  
4 Decree.

5 12. The parties recognize that, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(3), no consent  
6 judgment can be entered in a Clean Water Act suit in which the United States is not a party prior  
7 to forty-five (45) days following the receipt of a copy of the proposed consent judgment by the  
8 U.S. Attorney General and the Administrator of the U.S. EPA. Therefore, upon the signing of  
9 this Consent Decree by the parties, Soundkeeper shall serve copies of it upon the Administrator of  
10 the U.S. EPA and the Attorney General.

11 13. This Consent Decree takes effect upon entry by the court. It terminates May 15,  
12 2017, or upon completion of the tasks identified in paragraphs 7 and 9, whichever is later.

13 14. Both parties have participated in drafting this decree.

14 15. This Consent Decree may be modified only upon the approval of the court.

15 16. If for any reason the court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the  
16 form presented, this Consent Decree is voidable at the discretion of either party. The parties  
17 agree to continue negotiations in good faith in an attempt to cure any objection raised by the court  
18 to entry of this Consent Decree.

19 17. Notifications required by this Consent Decree must be in writing. The sending  
20 party may use any of the following methods of delivery: (1) personal delivery; (2) registered or  
21 certified mail, in each case return receipt requested and postage prepaid; (3) a nationally  
22 recognized overnight courier, with all fees prepaid; or (4) e-mail. For a notice or other  
23 communication regarding this Consent Decree to be valid, it must be delivered to the receiving  
24 party at the addresses listed below or to any other address designated by the receiving party in a  
25 notice in accordance with this paragraph 17.

26 **if to Soundkeeper:**

1 Katelyn Kinn  
2 Puget Soundkeeper Alliance  
3 130 Nickerson Street, Suite 107  
4 Seattle WA 98109

5 email: [katelyn@pugetsoundkeeper.org](mailto:katelyn@pugetsoundkeeper.org)

6 **and to:**

7 Smith & Lowney PLLC  
8 2317 East John St.  
9 Seattle, WA 98112  
10 email: [clairret@igc.org](mailto:clairret@igc.org)

11 **if to Rainier Petroleum:**

12 Dan Kovacich  
13 Rainier Petroleum  
14 1711 13<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Seattle, WA 98134  
15 email: [dan.kovacich@pilotthomas.com](mailto:dan.kovacich@pilotthomas.com)

16 **and to:**

17 Andy Edwards  
18 777 Main St., Suite 2000  
19 Forth Worth, TX 76102  
20 email: [andy.edwards@pilotthomas.com](mailto:andy.edwards@pilotthomas.com)

21 and to:

22 Jeffrey Bilanko  
23 Gordon & Rees, LLP  
24 701 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 2100  
25 Seattle, WA 98104  
26 Email: [jbilanko@gordonrees.com](mailto:jbilanko@gordonrees.com)

A notice or other communication regarding this Consent Decree will be effective when received unless the notice or other communication is received after 5:00 p.m. on a business day, or on a day that is not a business day, then the notice will be deemed received at 9:00 a.m. on the next business day. A notice or other communication will be deemed to have been received: (a) if it is delivered in person or sent by registered or certified mail or by nationally recognized overnight courier, upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt; or (b) if the receiving party rejects or otherwise refuses to accept it, or if it cannot be delivered because of a

1 change in address for which no notice was given, then upon that rejection, refusal, or inability to  
2 deliver; or (c) for notice provided via e-mail, upon receipt of a response by the party providing  
3 notice or other communication regarding this Consent Decree.  
4

5  
6 DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
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9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 HON. JAMES L. ROBART  
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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1 Presented by:

2 GORDON & REES, LLP

SMITH & LOWNEY PLLC

3  
4 By /s/ Jeffrey E. Bilanko

By /s/ Claire E. Tonry

5 Jeffrey E. Bilanko, WSBA No. 38829  
6 Elizabeth K. Morrison, WSBA No. 43042  
7 Attorneys for Defendant  
8 Rainier Petroleum Corp.

Knoll D. Lowney, WSBA No. 23457  
9 Claire E. Tonry, WSBA No. 44497  
10 Attorneys for Plaintiff Puget Soundkeeper  
11 Alliance

ATTACHMENT A

1970 BROADWAY, SUITE 600, OAKLAND, CA 94612-2218  
ROSE@ROSEFDN.ORG



WWW.ROSEFDN.ORG

OFFICE: 510 .658 .0702  
FAX: 510 .658 .0732

January 7, 2016

Thomas W. Swegle  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
Law and Policy Section  
P.O. Box 7415  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7415

Re: Puget Soundkeeper Alliance v. Rainier Petroleum Corporation (Pier 15 Facility) (Case No: 14-00829JLR)

Dear Mr. Swegle,

This letter is intended to provide assurance that I have received the proposed Consent Decree between Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and Rainier Petroleum Corporation and that I am authorized by my Board of Directors to make the following binding commitments on behalf of the Rose Foundation.

- 1) I understand that the Rose Foundation should receive funds from Rainier Petroleum Corporation as specified in the Consent Decree.
- 2) The Rose Foundation shall only use these Rainier Petroleum Corporation funds for environmentally beneficial projects in the Duwamish River and Puget Sound watersheds, and disperse them through the Rose Foundation's Puget Sound Stewardship & Mitigation Fund, a grantmaking fund which is wholly dedicated to supporting projects which benefit the water quality of Puget Sound.
- 3) After the funds have been disbursed, the Rose Foundation shall send a report to the Justice Department, the Court and the Parties describing how the funds were utilized and demonstrating conformance with the nexus of the Consent Decree.

**Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment**

The Rose Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity (tax ID#94-3179772). Its mission is to support grassroots initiatives to inspire community action to protect the environment, consumers and public health. To fulfill this mission, the Rose Foundation conducts the following activities:

- Raise money to award as grants to qualified non-profit organizations conducting charitable operations. The Rose Foundation does not support lobbying activities that are prohibited by Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and no portion of the Rainier Petroleum Corporation funds shall be used to support any political lobbying activities whatsoever.

- Work directly in schools and in the community to encourage environmental stewardship and civic participation.
- Help government efforts to control pollution and protect the environment by encouraging community engagement in local, state and federal research and policy development.

Within this broad range of activities, all of the Rose Foundation's work revolves around one or more of the following strategic themes:

- Build and maintain a bridge between the community and organized philanthropy.
- Protect the natural environment, public health, and community and consumer rights.
- Promote collaboration between labor, environmental, business, consumer and social interests.
- Cultivate a new generation of environmental stewards and social policy leaders.
- Respect the inalienable rights protected by our nation's constitution, and the essential human rights to clean air, clean water, and individual dignity and privacy.

The Rose Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors. Grant applicants are required to submit written proposals, which must include at a minimum specific information about the goals, activities and projected outcomes of the proposed project, background about the charitable applicant, budget information, and a specific funding request. The Foundation may require additional information in order to fully evaluate the application. Applications are first screened by Foundation staff. Staff then makes recommendations to the Foundation Board for action. The Foundation requires all projects to submit written reports within one year of receipt of the grant award describing work conducted under the grant, thereby providing an accountability mechanism over funds awarded. Annual audits by the certified public accounting firm Levy and Powers are posted on the Foundation's website [www.rosefdn.org](http://www.rosefdn.org).

I hope this provides you with the information you require. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information at (510) 658-0702 or [tlittle@rosefdn.org](mailto:tlittle@rosefdn.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Little", written over a horizontal line.

Tim Little, Executive Director