

## **CAMAS MILL CLEANUP COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**

### **STATEMENT TO THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY RELATIVE TO CLEANUP OF THE CAMAS MILL AND FUTURE USES**

**May 29, 2024**

#### **Background:**

The Camas Mill Cleanup Community Advisory Group (CAG) was created after strong public response to the Department of Ecology's (DOE) initial public comment period regarding the Agreed Order between DOE and Georgia Pacific. The CAG was formed to address the greater community's belief that the cleanup of the Camas Mill would profoundly impact their future. The community needed a seat at the table during the investigation and cleanup process, providing input to decisions made along the way.

Pursuant to an Ecology grant, the Downtown Camas Association (DCA) organized the CAG, created an informational website, engaged a consultant, created social media posts, and received input from 1,000 in-person interactions at 5 events. The website has generated 7452 site visits, with 6,569 unique visitors.

#### **The Community's Input:**

Public sentiment strongly advocates the Camas Mill be cleaned up to a level supporting an unrestricted future for Camas. The community values healthy land and water, and full choice for the mill property's future use.

#### **The CAG's Scope:**

The CAG's scope includes these words from the Agreed Order's Public Participation Plan (PPP): "the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making." The Washington State Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) recognizes the value of a community group providing a forum for reporting to Ecology. The CAG's scope does not include specific recommendations on future land uses for the mill property, acknowledging that as a city function.

#### **CAG STATEMENT:**

The Greater Camas community seeks:

- An unrestricted future for the Camas Mill property which supports needs and opportunities for future generations.
- A cleanup plan that considers the needs of our natural systems, including groundwater resources, and in agreement with the Yakama Nation's request, considers the restoration of the natural systems of the Camas Slough and the Columbia River.