FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

(x) QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

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() TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 1-6780

RAYONIER INC.

Incorporated in the State of North Carolina I.R.S. Employer Identification Number 13-2607329

l177 Summer Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06905-5529 (Principal Executive Office)

Telephone Number: (203) 348-7000

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES (X) NO ()

As of November 7, 1996, there were 29,366,755 Common Shares of the Registrant outstanding.

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3 PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM L. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following unaudited financial statements reflect, in the opinion of Rayonier Inc. (Rayonier or the Company), all adjustments (which include only normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations, the financial position and the cash flows for the periods presented. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year's financial statements to conform to current year presentation. For a full description of accounting policies, please refer to Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the 1995 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

RAYONIER INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME (UNAUDITED) (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine M Ended Sept	ember 30,
	1996	1995	1996	1995
SALES	\$ 285,104	\$ 333,913	\$ 875,751	\$ 933,309
Costs and expenses				
Cost of sales	245,659	264,558	726,120	740,815
Selling and general expenses	9,672	9,124	27,913	26,937
Other operating income, net	(1,276)	(1,126)	(2,172)	(4,335)
	254,055	272,556	751,861	763,417
OPERATING INCOME	31,049	61,357	123,890	169,892
Interest expense	(6,434)	(8,746)	(20,677)	(26,054)
Non-recurring gain (See Item 2 - Other Items)	-	34,763	-	34,763
Interest and miscellaneous income, net	2,490	654	5,451	2,321
Minority interest	(4,778)	(4,467)	(21,315)	(21,039)
Income before income taxes	22,327	83,561	87,349	159,883
Provision for income taxes	(6,759)	(26,523)	(24,900)	(51,358)
NET INCOME	\$ 15,568 =======	\$ 57,038	\$ 62,449 ========	\$ 108,525 =======
NET INCOME PER COMMON SHARE	\$.52 ========	\$ 1.90 ======	\$ 2.08 =======	
Weighted average Common Shares outstanding	29,979,270 =======	30,071,300 	30,031,852 =======	29,963,590 ======

RAYONIER INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (UNAUDITED) (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

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	ASSETS		
		September 30, 1996	December 31, 1995
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and short-term investments		\$6,784	\$ 10,932
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful			
accounts of \$4,482 and \$4,420 Inventories		124,737	128,478
Finished goods		63,808	71,307
Work in process		19,368	25,681
Raw materials		39,595	44,350
Manufacturing and maintenance supplies		30,377	28,740
Total inventories		153,148	170,078
Timber stumpage		34,596	49,464
Other current assets		26,607	15,412
Deferred income taxes		12,260	15,208
Total current assets		358,132	389,572
OTHER ASSETS		45,668	47,239
TIMBER STUMPAGE		19,994	29,396
TIMBER, TIMBERLANDS AND LOGGING ROADS,			
NET OF DEPLETION AND AMORTIZATION		486,254	476,463
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Land, buildings, machinery and equipment		1,344,134	1,292,059
Less - accumulated depreciation		603,716	586,796
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		740,418	705,263
		\$ 1,650,466	\$ 1,647,933
		===========	============

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES Accounts payable Bank loans and current maturities Accrued taxes Accrued payroll and benefits Accrued interest Other current liabilities Current reserves for dispositions Total current liabilities	\$ 84,386 3,216 24,039 19,678 8,179 37,242 15,534 	\$ 102,938 3,040 9,941 26,554 5,268 39,943 16,047
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES	166,020	160,574
LONG-TERM DEBT	433, 417	446,696
NON-CURRENT RESERVES FOR DISPOSITIONS	17,981	23,542
OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	25,055	25,204
MINORITY INTEREST	19,434	18,815
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Common Shares, 60,000,000 shares authorized, 29,416,455 and 29,653,278 shares issued and outstanding Retained earnings	149,193 647,092 796,285 \$ 1,650,466	159,032 610,339 769,371 \$ 1,647,933

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	1996	1995	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net income Non-cash items included in income Depreciation, depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Disposition of New Zealand timber assets Write-off of property, plant and equipment (Decrease) increase in other non-current liabilities Change in accounts receivable, inventories and accounts payable Decrease (increase) in current timber stumpage Increase in other current assets Increase in accrued liabilities Change in reserves for dispositions	\$ 62,449 71,608 7,544 7,060 (149) 2,119 14,868 (11,195) 7,432 (3,750) 	\$ 108,525 72,186 13,859 9,440 624 (81,851) (1,722) (4,197) 17,672 (3,733)	
Cash from operating activities	157,986	130,803	
INVESTING ACTIVITIES Capital expenditures, net of sales and retirements			
of \$11,488 and \$1,760 Expenditures for dispositions, net	(123,614)	(93,830)	
of tax benefits of \$850 and \$4,205 Change in timber stumpage and other assets	(1,474) 10,973	(7,095) (3,115)	
Cash used for investing activities	(114,115)	(104,040)	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Issuance of debt Repayments of debt Dividends (Repurchase) issuance of Common Shares Increase (decrease) in minority interest Cash used for financing activities	17,472 (30,575) (25,696) (9,839) 619 (48,019)	50,587 (50,201) (22,218) 1,237 (4,565) (25,160)	
CASH AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS			
(Decrease) increase during the period Balance, beginning of period	(4,148) 10,932	1,603 9,178	
Balance, end of period	\$	\$ 10,781 =======	
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information Cash paid during the period for: Interest Income taxes, net of refunds	\$ 19,760 \$ 7,865	\$ 22,468 ======== \$ 26,894	
	=======		

6 ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The sales and operating income of Rayonier's business segments for the three and nine months ended September 30, 1996 and 1995 were as follows (thousands of dollars):

		Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Month Ended Septembe		er 30,		
		1996		1995		1996		1995
SALES			-					
TIMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS								
Log trading and merchandising Timberlands management and stumpage Wood products Intrasegment eliminations	\$	28,608		108,025 29,130 22,548 (5,562)		245,504 119,549 75,536 (11,066)		116,791
Total Timber and Wood Products		138,345		154,141		429,523		467,888
SPECIALTY PULP PRODUCTS								
Chemical cellulose Fluff and specialty paper pulps		103,195 45,246		103,471 82,024		303,338 146,984		269,500 214,117
Total Specialty Pulp Products				185,495		450,322		483,617
Intersegment eliminations		(1,682)		(5,723)		(4,094)		(18,196)
Total sales	\$	285,104	\$	333,913 ======	\$ ==	875,751		933,309
OPERATING INCOME								
Timber and Wood Products Specialty Pulp Products Corporate and other Intersegment eliminations	\$	26,354 8,736 (3,947) (94)		38,737 (2,916) 22	\$	96,003 37,911 (10,136) 112	\$	104,015 74,384 (8,417) (90)
Total operating income	\$ ===	31,049	\$	61,357	\$	123,890		169,892

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

SALES AND OPERATING INCOME

Sales of \$285 million for the third quarter of 1996 were \$49 million or 15 percent lower than the third quarter of 1995 primarily due to lower fluff pulp pricing and lower log trading and merchandising sales to the Pacific Rim. Operating income of \$31 million was \$30 million or 49 percent lower than last year's third quarter as a result of the lower fluff pulp pricing. Sales for the nine months ended September 30, 1996 of \$876 million were \$58 million or 6 percent lower than the prior year, and operating income of \$124 million decreased \$46 million or 27 percent from the prior year.

Timber and Wood Products

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Timber and Wood Products' sales in the third quarter were \$138 million, down \$16 million from the 1995 third quarter. Operating income for the quarter of \$26 million was slightly above the prior year, reflecting stronger lumber prices and volumes and increases in timber harvesting, partially offset by lower U.S. stumpage pricing and weak log export markets. Sales for the nine month period were \$430 million, down \$38 million from the same period of 1995, with operating income of \$96 million down \$8 million from the prior year. The declines were due to lower log volumes and margins compared to 1995.

Log trading and merchandising sales and operating income, which include the Company's New Zealand log sales, declined from the 1995 third quarter due to continued weakness in Asian wood markets. In particular, New Zealand volume and pricing were adversely affected by soft Korean export markets.

Timberlands management and stumpage sales and operating income were even with the third quarter of 1995. Stumpage volume increases in both the Northwest and Southeast regions were offset by lower prices, reflective of weak markets at the time the contracts were initiated. Wood products results improved significantly from a year ago due to improved lumber prices and lower log costs.

Specialty Pulp Products

Sales of Specialty Pulp Products were \$148 million, down \$37 million from last year's third quarter, and operating income declined \$30 million as a result of significantly lower fluff pulp pricing.

Specialty Pulp Products' sales for the first nine months of 1996 were \$450 million, down \$33 million from the prior period reflecting lower overall pulp prices and volumes. Operating income declined \$36 million to \$38 million in 1996 reflecting lower fluff pulp prices offset somewhat by higher chemical cellulose prices that were realized mostly during the first half of the year, as well as by lower costs. The improvement in fluff pulp prices in the third quarter followed a sharp inventory correction that began in late 1995 but abated, somewhat, by mid-year 1996. The fluff pulp price increase in the third quarter was offset by slightly lower prices for chemical cellulose pulps, which tend to lag commodity paper pulp grades in the cycle.

The Company announced on October 21 that it intends to close its Port Angeles, WA pulp mill by mid-1997. The Company has been studying the long-term strategies to enhance the profitability and reduce the cyclicality of its specialty pulp business. The initial results of its ongoing strategic study of its pulp business confirmed that the mill is not competitive in world markets because of high wood costs due to federal environmental restrictions on Northwest timber harvests, viscose pulp capacity additions in lower cost regions of the world, and anticipated capital expenditures for new environmental regulations. The Company will take a fourth quarter charge of \$79 million after-tax, or \$2.63 per share, related to the disposition. The liquidation of working capital and tax benefits associated with the closure are expected to offset the cash closure costs.

Intersegment

Nine month intersegment sales of \$4 million in 1996 were less than the comparable 1995 amount due to lower stumpage sales from the Timber and Wood Products segment to the Specialty Pulp Products segment.

OTHER INCOME / EXPENSE

Interest expense was \$21 million for the first nine months of 1996, \$5 million favorable to 1995, reflecting a lower average debt level, lower interest rates and higher capitalized interest expense.

The prior year non-recurring gain relates to the sale of a 75 percent interest in a portion of the Company's New Zealand timber holdings to a timber investment fund. The transaction resulted in a non-recurring pretax gain of \$35 million, \$24 million after-tax, or \$0.80 per common share.

Rayonier enters into forward exchange contracts to mitigate the impact of New Zealand/U.S. dollar exchange fluctuations. The net gain on these contracts, which is included in Interest and Miscellaneous Income, was \$4 million and \$1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 1996 and 1995, respectively.

Minority interest in the earnings of Rayonier's subsidiary, Rayonier Timberlands, L.P. (RTLP) was relatively flat compared to 1995, reflecting higher stumpage volume offset by lower prices in both the Northwest and Southeast regions. The minority participation in the earnings of RTLP will change from approximately 24 percent to approximately 1 percent effective January 1, 2001.

The effective tax rate for the first nine months of 1996 was 28.5 percent compared to 32.1 percent for the comparable period in 1995. The change reflects 1996 recognition of a tax asset related to a prior year transaction following resolution of various uncertainties related to its realization.

NET INCOME

Net income for the third quarter was \$16 million or \$0.52 per Common Share, down \$18 million or \$0.58 per Common Share from the 1995 third quarter excluding the non-recurring gain on the New Zealand timber sale. Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 1996 was \$62 million or \$2.08 per Common Share, down \$22 million or \$0.74 per Common Share, excluding the non-recurring gain.

OTHER ITEMS

The Company announced on October 9 that it would take an after-tax charge to discontinued operations of \$80 to \$100 million, or \$2.67 to \$3.33 per share, in the fourth quarter to comply with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Statement of Position 96-1, "Environmental Remediation Liabilities." Rayonier will accrue the cost of future monitoring and administration costs expected to be incurred over the next 25 to 30 years at its Southern Wood Piedmont wood treating operations (discontinued in 1986). The annual monitoring costs were being expensed. Over the last three years those costs were approximately \$4 million pretax or 8 cents per share annually.

Total non-recurring charges in the fourth quarter for the accounting change, mill closure (see the Specialty Pulp Products discussion) and approximately \$5 million after-tax for write-downs of other non-strategic assets, will be between \$159 and \$179 million after-tax, or \$5.30 to \$5.96 per share. The book charges will increase the Company's debt-to-capital ratio by about 6 percentage points.

The Company's Form 10-K for 1995 referred to Federal environmental regulations governing air and water discharges that were proposed in 1993. In July 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it anticipates that technologies other than those which formed the basis of the proposed water regulations will be used to establish the final regulations for dissolving pulp mills. The agency said that it would await the results of studies being undertaken by the Company and other manufacturers of chemical cellulose pulps before proposing final regulations. The Company now expects that its costs to comply with these regulations will probably be less than previously estimated with implementation required at later dates than originally projected.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash flow from operating activities of \$158 million for the first nine months of 1996 increased from \$131 million in 1995 as a result of reduced working capital partially offset by lower net income. EBITDA (defined as earnings from continuing operations before non-recurring items, interest expense, income taxes and depreciation, depletion and amortization) for the first nine months of 1996 of \$180 million decreased \$44 million from the comparable period of 1995. Cash from operations helped to finance capital expenditures of \$135 million, dividends of \$26 million and the repurchase of Common Shares of \$11 million. Third quarter ending debt of \$437 million was \$13 million less than prior year-end debt. The Company's debt-to-total-capital-ratio at September 30, 1996 was 35 percent, down 2 percentage points from December 31, 1995.

During the first quarter of 1996, the Company began a common share repurchase program to minimize the dilutive effect on earnings per share of its employee incentive stock plans. The number of shares that may be repurchased each year is limited to the greater of 1.5 percent of the Company's outstanding shares or the number of incentive stock shares issued to employees during the year. The Company expects to repurchase approximately 450,000 shares in 1996. In the first nine months, 303,000 shares were repurchased at an average cost of \$37.04 per share with a total cost of approximately \$11 million.

The Company has unsecured credit facilities totaling \$300 million, which are used for direct borrowings and as support for \$93 million of outstanding commercial paper. As of September 30, 1996, the Company had \$207 million of available borrowings under its revolving credit facilities. In addition, through currently effective shelf registration statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Company may offer up to \$141 million of new public debt securities. The Company believes that internally generated funds combined with available external financing will enable Rayonier to fund capital expenditures, share repurchases, working capital and other liquidity needs for the foreseeable future.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	1996	1995	1996	1995
TIMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS				
Log sales North America - millions of board feet New Zealand - thousands of cubic meters Other - millions of board feet	72 370 4	107 403 6	206 1,226 13	273 1,255 15
Timber harvest Northwest U.S millions of board feet Southeast U.S thousands of short green tons New Zealand - thousands of cubic meters	34 532 277	27 449 312	148 1,639 825	115 1,597 916
Lumber sold - millions of board feet	71	63	205	157
Intercompany sales Logs - millions of board feet Northwest U.S. timber stumpage - millions of board feet Southeast U.S. timber stumpage - thousands of short green tons	2 6 40	10 10 34	6 19 116	21 26 236
SPECIALTY PULP PRODUCTS				
Pulp sales Chemical cellulose sales - thousands of metric tons Fluff and specialty paper pulp sales - thousands of metric tons Production as a percent of capacity	114 85 100.5%	115 93 102.7%	325 258 93.2%	323 267 97.7%
SELECTED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (thousands of dollars)				
New Zealand - Sales		\$ 26,261 ======	\$72,471 ======	\$79,337 ======
New Zealand - Operating Income	\$ 1,521 =======			\$11,308 ======

10 PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Rayonier's Form 10-K for 1995 reported four pending civil cases in which Rayonier and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Southern Wood Piedmont Company ("SWP"), were named as defendants, including an action in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia seeking damages in the amount of \$700 million. The plaintiffs in that particular action have since amended their complaint to eliminate any reference to specific monetary damages. Another of these actions, which was pending in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and related to SWP's plant in Macon, Georgia, has since been dismissed. Counsel for Rayonier and SWP continue to believe that there are meritorious defenses in all of the remaining cases and that the ultimate disposition of these cases will not be material to the Company.

Reference is made to the Rayonier Inc. Form 10-Q Quarterly Report for the quarter ended March 31, 1996 for a description of matters reported during that period.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

ΒY

(a) See Exhibit Index.

(b) Rayonier Inc. filed a Current Report on Form 8-K on October 9, 1996, announcing that it will adopt the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statement of Position (SOP) on accounting for environmental remediation and monitoring liabilities.

Rayonier Inc. filed a Current Report on Form 8-K on October 21, 1996, announcing its intention to close its Port Angeles, WA, pulp mill by mid-1997.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

RAYONIER INC. (Registrant)

KENNETH P. JANETTE Kenneth P. Janette Vice President and Corporate Controller (Chief Accounting Officer)

November 13, 1996

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
2	Plan of acquisition, reorganization, arrangement, liquidation or succession	None
3.1	Amended and restated articles of incorporation	No amendments
3.2	By-laws	No amendments
4	Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures	Not required to be filed. The Registrant hereby agrees to file with the Commission a copy of any instrument defining the rights of holders of the Registrant's long-term debt upon request of the Commission.
10	Material contracts	None
11	Statement re computation of per share earnings	Not required to be filed
12	Statement re computation of ratios	Filed herewith
15	Letter re unaudited interim financial information	None
18	Letter re change in accounting principles	None
19	Report furnished to security holders	None
22	Published report regarding matters submitted to vote of security holders	None
23	Consents of experts and counsel	None
24	Power of attorney	None
27	Financial data schedule	Filed herewith
99	Additional exhibits	None

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

(UNAUDITED) (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	1996	1995	
Earnings: Net Income Add:	\$ 62,449	\$ 108,525	
Income Taxes Minority Interest Amortization of Capitalized Interest	24,900 21,315 1,473	51,358 21,039 1,233	
	110,137	182,155	
Adjustments to Earnings for Fixed Charges: Interest and Other Financial Charges Interest Factor Attributable to Rentals	20,677 1,083	26,054 1,107	
EARNINGS AS ADJUSTED	21,760 \$ 131,897 	27,161 \$ 209,316 =======	
Fixed Charges: Fixed Charges above Capitalized Interest	\$ 21,760 1,994	\$ 27,161 857	
TOTAL FIXED CHARGES	\$ 23,754 ======	\$ 28,018 ======	
RATIO OF EARNINGS AS ADJUSTED TO TOTAL FIXED CHARGES	5.55	7.47	

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9-MOS

DEC-31-1996

JAN-01-1996

SEP-30-1996

6,784

0

129,220

4,482

153,148

358,132

1,344,134

603,716

1,650,466

192,274

433,417

149,194

0

647,091

1,650,466

875,751

875,751

875,751

726,120

41,605

0

20,677

87,349

24,900

62,449

0

0

0

62,449

2.08

2.08
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