

# Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

July 28, 2022 Special Meeting

12:00pm-2:00pm

Virtual meeting via ZOOM Platform

Due to limited staff capacity, Environmental Justice Council (Council) staff are working to streamline the Council meeting notes. The notes now include only very high-level points and the final decisions made along with voting records. The full meeting recordings can be found on the Council's website: [Environmental Justice Council Meetings | WaPortal.org](https://www.wa.gov/EnvironmentalJusticeCouncilMeetings). However, it is important that meeting notes are useful to the Council Members and the public. Please share feedback with Council staff on how we can make these notes most useful to you by emailing [envjustice@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or by calling 360-584-4398.

## Council members present:

- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- Council Member Maria Blancas
- The Honorable Patrick DePoe
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Aurora Martin
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Dawn Vyvyan representing The Honorable Sylvia Miller
- Council Member Nirae Petty
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

## Council Members Absent:

- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Maria Batayola
- Council Member Esther Min
- The Honorable Sylvia Miller
- The Honorable Misty Napeahi

## Agency Ex Officio Liaisons Present:

- Laura Blackmore, Puget Sound Partnership

- Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Department of Natural Resources
- Allison Dane Camden, Department of Transportation
- Michael Furze, Department of Commerce
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology
- Lauren Jenks, on behalf of David Bayne and the Department of Health

**Council staff present:**

- Sierra Rotakhina
- Theo Cielos
- Rowena Pineda

Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, called the public meeting to order at 12:05pm.

## I. Welcome and Introduction

Rowena Pineda opened the meeting and facilitated Council member and staff introductions.

Senator Liz Lovelett expressed that it was an honor to be with this group today and shared some exciting news around making sure that Indigenous voices are heard in our communities. She shared recent news about the channel between the San Juan Islands which was called Harney Channel. She noted that Harney was a colonialist known for beating slaves and slaughtering Indigenous people. Senator Lovelett reported that with the collaboration between grassroots activists and the Federal Government liaising with the State, the channel is now going to be renamed Cayou Channel. This shows that representation that comes from the heart of our communities is so crucial to making good decisions. She expressed that she is thrilled to have been able to be a part of the legislative effort that got us to this place where we now have the Environmental Justice Council and have real, genuine input and oversight with the expertise that Council Members bring, knowing their communities. She noted that she was here to listen today with my partners in service Senator Saldaña.

Senator Rebecca Saldaña, shared that it is the highlight of her today to be able to see the good work of such talented, knowledgeable, and values-based individuals and leaders that are taking on this

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really important work. She noted that she is here as support and to ensure that we stay committed to making sure that not only do we pass legislation, but that the agencies and our communities have the resources to make sure we can actually implement. She thanked the Council for being here and letting her be a part of the listening and learning from the Council.

## II. Approval of Agenda

The Council Members did not request any changes to the published agenda.

## III. Public Comment

Theo Cielos, Council Staff, opened the public comment period and shared a summary of written public comments received:

- 5 groups submitted copies of the public comments they submitted to Ecology on the proposed cap and invest rules.
- Friends of Toppenish Creek submitted a letter to the EJ Council on the cap and invest rules.
- Two community members submitted comments voicing concerns regarding the proposed expansion/widening of the Fautleroy Ferry Dock and asking that the Children's Cove Park and Salmon Stream be protected and not destroyed.

Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek, outlined environmental justice concerns about the proposed cap and invest rules (chapter 173-446 WAC). Jean Mendoza's comments are covered more fully in the written public comments available here: [Microsoft Word - Dear WA Environmental Justice Council II.docx \(waportal.org\)](#)

## IV. Discussion of Draft Comment Letter on Cap and Invest Rulemaking (Chapter 173-446 WAC)

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Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, give some background on this topic (see the [cover memo](#) for this agenda item for background information). The Council discussed and made amendments to the letter and adopted the following motion (you can find the letter in Appendix A of today's meeting notes):

The Environmental Justice Council adopts the rules comment letter to the Department of Ecology, with amendments made during today's meeting, and directs Council staff to submit the letter to the Department of Ecology on behalf of the Council.

**Council Members Present for this Vote:**

- Council Member Maria Blancas: A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member Running-Grass: A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen (moved to adopt the motion): A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member Aurora Martin: A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member David Mendoza (seconded motion): A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member Nirae Petty: A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member Todd Mitchell: B: Yes, with reservations

Council Member Mitchell noted that he has some reservations but it just some background information that he needs to read about, so it is good.

- Council Member Nichole Banegas: A: Yes, I approve
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware: F: I stand aside, recuse myself

Council Member Ware noted that she was not opposed to sending the letter but was not 100%.

**Council Members Absent for this Vote:**

- The Honorable Patrick Depoe (present for most of the meeting)
- Council Member Maria Batayola
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard (present for most of the meeting)

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- Council Member Esther Min
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- The Honorable Misty Napeahi
- The Honorable Sylvia Miller

#### V. Check-out and Farewell

The Council adjourned at 2:00pm.