

From: Michelle Mood

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:33 AM

To: DOH EPH OEPHS Environmental Justice <envjustice@ejc.wa.gov>

Subject: Speaking today at meeting

External Email

I would like to join with comments about advancing environmental justice in South Tacoma at your meeting today via zoom. We South Tacomans have been frustrated by no movement at all for a Health Impact Assessment by the city to understand the effect of the planned 2.5 million square feet megawarehouse to be built in South Tacoma (west of I5, South of SR 16). South Tacoma and my zip code already has the worst health equity rating as per the Washington Environmental Health Equity mapping tool, with diesel particulate matter especially bad. We have the highest rates of Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and Asian people here (only 42% of our population is white). Our life expectancy is much shorter already (no clear data comparing us to other parts of Tacoma, but overall, 6 years shorter than Pierce county Average; 2011 data from Tacoma Pierce County Health Depart documents the range of life expectancy in my census block was 25-40 years shorter than that in North Proctor census area). Our current rates of cardiovascular disease/deaths, premature and low birth weight babies, are also the worst in the city -- all of these health issues are exacerbated by diesel. The PSCAA just presented new EPA data about air quality in Tacoma this week, and South Tacoma was worse off than industrial areas of Tacoma. (In fact, there is no air quality measuring in South Tacoma -the monitoring is in South End Tacoma, East of i-5 -- we've asked for one but still no is the only answer we get).

And yet we have had no Health Impact Assessment of the planned new warehouse in South Tacoma that will bring in 5,000-12,000 new vehicle trips a day (depending on who rents it out). We need help! The City has not responded at all to hundreds of requests from citizens and organizations to please have a HIA to help understand what's coming down the pike for us, and what we can do to lessen the effects on our already overburdened community.

Looking forward to sharing my concerns,

Dr. Michelle S. Mood (she, her, hers)