

Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

11/16/2023

Virtual 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 or by calling 360-584-4398.

Council Members present:

- Council Co-Chair Maria Batayola
- Council Member Maria Blancas (joined at 4:00pm)
- Council Delegate AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Council Member Esther Min
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

Council Members absent:

- Council Member Nichole Benegas
- Council Interim Co-Chair, the Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Aurora Martin

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Lea Anne Burke, Puget Sound Partnership
- Carlos Lugo on behalf of Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Department of Natural Resources
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Michael Furze, Department of Commerce
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Courtney Cecale for Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

Council staff:

- Amina Al-Tarouti
- Jonathan Chen
- Angie Ellis
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Rowena Pineda
- Sierra Rotakhina

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call.

Nichole Banegas	Absent
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Present
Maria Blancas	Joined at 4:00pm
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Absent
Running-Grass	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Absent
Aurora Martin	Absent
David Mendoza	Present
Esther Min	Present
Todd Mitchell	Present
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Present
Raeshawna Ware	Present

II. Moment of Silence Honoring Theo Cielos' Life and Work: One Year Remembrance

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, said staff would set up a time later in the month to remember and celebrate Theo Cielos' life. Staff shared brief comments to remember Theo and Co-Chair Batayola read from written comments provided by former Council Member NiRae Petty. A moment of silence followed.

III. Approval of Agenda by Council

Co-Chair Batayola, facilitated adoption of the [agenda](#).

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Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

No objections noted. The motion passed.

IV. Approval of October 26, 2023 Meeting Notes by Council

Co-Chair Batayola noted that the Council did not yet have quorum yet, so tabled this agenda item for a future meeting.

V. Public Comment

Council staff opened up the public comment period and read from a prepared statement.

Michelle Mood bought a home next to a mega warehouse in South Tacoma. The community is 42% white and the zip code has a number of health concerns, including the worst air pollution and shortest life expectancy. They are having difficulty working with the Tacoma City Council. They shared several requests of the Council to consider, including strengthening SEPA, having a health impact assessment completed, additional conditions for permitting, new laws to require air quality monitoring, and citizen oversight in overburdened areas.

Cathie Urwin lives in South Tacoma one mile east of a mega warehouse. They have been trying to fight the warehouse and are in a court case without legal representation. People in overburdened communities don't have legal resources or funds to fight city decisions or companies. They have well documented inequities in the community, but they are not being considered by city officials. They've asked for a health impact assessment, but the city will not conduct an assessment. They said the warehouse will contribute to an additional 10,000-12,000 vehicle trips a day.

Maria Fernandez, with the organization Ella in Yakima County, thanked Council staff for joining a community meeting in Mabton. ELLA has procured funding for water distribution events so residents can have drinking water. Maria said the new well is not producing enough water and has nitrates, so they are digging a second well. If it is not successful, the city doesn't have any options. These water issues have been going on for more than 60 years. They have appreciated EJC

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guidance and are hoping they can count on the Council to recommend some funding for this important issue.

VI. Consider Adoption of Council 2023 Update and Report Due to the Public, Legislature, and Governor

Co-Chair Batayola introduced the agenda item. Staff shared the changes made to the report since the previous briefing.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the [2023 Report to the Community, Governor, and Legislature](#) (see page 17) as presented on November 16, 2023 with the change to highlight the recommendations and the rationale in Section 5.

The motion passed,

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

Nichole Banegas	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	A
Maria Blancas	First Motion, A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Absent
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Absent
Aurora Martin	Absent
David Mendoza	A
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	A
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Second, A
Raeshawna Ware	B

Raeshawna Ware, Council Member, had reservations because she didn't have an opportunity to share a comment she had before voting.

VII. Consider Adoption of Additional Climate Commitment Act & HEAL Act 2024 Budget Recommendation on Water Quality

Co-Chair Batayola introduced the agenda item and staff said that this budget proposal to address water quality issues was shared with the Council at the last meeting. She said Council Members weren't ready to adopt at the last meeting because the Tribal Representatives wanted more time to ensure there would not be unintended consequences to Tribal water rights. She said the current draft had edits to address those concerns. She reviewed the changes made to the proposal.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the additional [2024 Supplemental Budget Recommendation on drinking water quality](#) (see recommendation #15 on page 18) as presented with any amendments agreed to by the full Council on November 16, 2023.

The Council directs staff to work with Council Members (appointed and ex officio members), the Governor's Office, the Office of Financial Management, relevant agencies, and others as needed to continue to refine the budget estimates and other details while centering the intent of the recommendation adopted today.

The Council directs staff to submit the recommendation to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2024 state supplemental budgets.

The Motion passed.

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

Nichole Banegas	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	A
Maria Blancas	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Absent

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Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Absent
Aurora Martin	Absent
David Mendoza	Second, A
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	A
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	First motion, A
Raeshawna Ware	A

VIII. Consider Adoption of the Council’s Process for the 2024 Legislative Session

Esther Min, Council Member, introduced the agenda item. Council Members reviewed the policy positions in the document and the procedure, which were proposed by Council Members Mendoza, Dotzauer, Pritchard, and Batayola. Running-Grass, Council Member, asked for clarity on the purpose and staff said it would be used to guide Council Members and staff in advocating for the Council’s budget recommendations and sharing any policy positions the Council may adopt, particularly during legislative session. Members shared concerns and potential edits with policy statements related to the Climate Commitment Act. Members also shared some thoughts, questions, and potential edits on the procedure. During the conversation, the Council lost quorum and, therefore, did not consider a vote for adoption.

IX. Adoption of the Council’s 2024 Meeting Schedule

Due to the Council losing quorum, they did not consider adoption of the meeting schedule.

X. Discuss Council’s Draft Bylaws

The Council did not have time to discuss this agenda item.

XI. Update and Discussion on Workshops on the Process to Identify Overburdened Communities and Vulnerable Populations

Rowena Pineda said the presenters would provide an update on the work to develop a process for identifying overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. She said they hosted two workshops for Council Members on this topic. Will Golding, Department of Transportation, and Chelsea Batavia, Department of Ecology, shared their [presentation](#) (see page 85).

XII. Update and Discussion on Department of Health Environmental Justice Grants

The Council did not have time to discuss this agenda item.

XIII. Public Comment

Maria Fernandez thanked the Council for passing the budget recommendation related to clean drinking water and thanked staff for attending the community meeting in Mabton.

XIV. Appreciations and Adjournment

Co-Chair Batayola adjourned the meeting.