

Environmental Justice Council

Statement on Tribal Sovereignty; Self Determination; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

Adopted by the Council on July 2, 2024

The Environmental Justice Council (Council) affirms the rights acknowledged under the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and emphasizes the importance of practicing free, prior, and informed consent. The Council also upholds the [Principles of Environmental Justice](#) adopted at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991, including the principle that “Environmental Justice must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants, [other laws, and executive orders], affirming sovereignty and self-determination.” The Council knows the urgency of the climate crisis (particularly for Tribes and other frontline communities) and supports the need to transition to safer, cleaner, and more sustainable energy production. The Council further upholds that when this transition involves a project of non-Tribal proponents, it must happen only with free, prior, and informed consent from Tribes who have been, and continue to be, the stewards of the land since time immemorial.

The meeting materials for this meeting can be found here: [July 2, 2024 Special Environmental Justice Council Meeting Materials.pdf \(waportal.org\)](#)

The meeting recording for this meeting can be found here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZNs4OrIGgk_wLmzpg1R45ieDeJQE16qmN0G4RI2J852fvB5zyMDGvMXbW9zQ_D9a.SRU6uXMkMfKsQjiC