

# Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

October 24, 2024

## 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.environmentaljusticecouncil.org/Meetings). 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:

- Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)
- Tatiana Brown
- AJ Dotzauer on behalf of the Honorable Misty Napeahi
- Running-Grass
- Rosalinda Guillen
- Aurora Martin
- Esther Min
- Todd Mitchell
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- The Honorable Monica Tonasket
- Raeshawna Ware
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

### Council Members absent:

- Nichole Banegas
- Maria Blancas
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)
- David Mendoza

### Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Lea Anne Burke, Puget Sound Partnership
- Michael Furze, Department of Commerce

- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Department of Natural Resources
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

**Council staff:**

- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Dana Myers
- Rowena Pineda
- Sierra Red Bow
- Sierra Rotakhina

**Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum**

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. Rowena Pineda, Council staff, facilitated roll call. An initial quorum was established.

<b>16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9</b>		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Present
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	Present
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Present
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Present
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	Absent
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	Present
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent

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## I. Approval of Agenda by Council

Aurora Martin, Council Member, facilitated adoption of the agenda.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the agenda.

No objections noted. **The motion passed.**

## II. Approval of September 26, 2024 Meeting Notes by Council

Member Martin facilitated adoption of the notes from the last meeting.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the meeting notes for September 26, 2024.

No objections noted. **The motion passed.**

## III. EJ Council Community Connection

Rosalinda Guillen said that due to a scheduling issue, they do not have a presentation for Community Connection at this meeting. Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, used the time to introduce and provide context for the budget recommendations agenda item, which they will continue after the public comment period.

## IV. Public Comment

Member Guillen opened up the public comment period.

Jillian Youngblood, Executive Director of Civic Genius, said Civic Genius is a national organization focused on deliberative democracy. Jillian said deliberative processes are important to get people to engage. People stay engaged when their comments have consequence. Developing and implementing solutions with one's neighbors gets people to come back. Jillian said the Climate Assemblies are already making progress, and they support continued funding next biennium.

Maricela Santana –Walle, EJ Coordinator for ELLA said their goal is to increase Chicana and Latina participation in the Lower Yakima Valley. They are addressing farmworker rights, air pollution, and water contamination. Maricela said it would be beneficial for the community to engage with state

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agencies, non-profits, and others doing work in the environmental justice sector to increase understanding of what is going on around the state.

Toshiko Hasegawa, Principal at Yonsei Consulting, said they have been retained by the Washington State Department of Agriculture to support the Green Fertilizer Workgroup. Toshiko said the Workgroup has concluded and the final report has been published and delivered to the Governor and Legislature. She thanked Members who engaged in the office hours to provide information and guidance and offered to continue to connect with Members individually to walk them through their findings. They made 18 recommendations to promote HEAL Act compliance for the Department of Agriculture. Toshiko also addressed the EJ Council in her capacity as Vice President for the Port of Seattle Commission and shared that they are developing the Sustainable Airport Master Plan, which has 31 near term projects to address key challenges for the region associated with passenger travel, cargo volumes, availability of gates at the airport, and storage space. The FAA concluded its environmental assessment and opened the public comment period. Cities adjacent to the airport have submitted an appeal, asking for an extension to the comment period.

## V. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Additional Budget Recommendations, Including Endorsement of Agency Budget Requests (Decision Packages)

Sierra Rotakhina reminded the Council that they were briefed on this item before the Public Comment period. She asked Christy Hoff, Council Staff, to provide a summary of the 17 Decision Packages (budget requests) that the Council may consider whether or not to endorse. Christy provided a brief overview of the Decision Packages related to HEAL implementation, those to continue funding for programs as a result of past Council recommendations, and those that directly aligned with budget recommendations they adopted at the September meeting. Sierra asked Council Members if they had concerns or wanted to further discuss any of the budget requests. Members did not identify any that they wanted to discuss further.

**Motion:** The Environmental Justice Council endorses the 17 Decision Packages as presented on October 24, 2024. The Council directs staff to submit the endorsements to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2025-2027 biennial budget.

**Motion/Second:** Todd Mitchell/Lua Pritchard

**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.

<b>16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9</b>		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A

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The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	A

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, said she had some good and difficult conversations with community members who reached out to her before the meeting to share concerns with how the funds from the Council's recommendations are being distributed and how the process for developing budget recommendations does not engage a wider range of communities. They also expressed that EJ Council staff had received this feedback last year and had not implemented changes in response. The community members asked about the role and responsibility the Council has in tracking whether communities are benefiting or being harmed by implementation of programs based on Council recommendations. Sierra said she recommended the Council pause to better understand the concerns shared with staff and to find a path forward before the Council adopts additional recommendations at today's meeting. She asked Council Members for guidance on how to proceed. Council Members discussed whether or not to delay adoption of the budget recommendations given the importance of the work that the two draft recommendations would fund. The Council opted to continue this conversation as a priority at the next Council meeting or by holding a special meeting before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Motion:** Convene the EJ Council for a November 21 meeting and give priority of discussion to budget recommendations 14 and 15.

**Motion/Second:** Todd Mitchell/Raeshawna Ware

**The Motion Failed** (a quorum was not established)

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.

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F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

<b>16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9</b>		
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Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	C
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	F
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	B
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent

Member Running-Grass indicated that he voted for option C because he didn't know if waiting until November would still provide an opportunity to influence the budget. He suggested reviewing a 1-pager to better understand the concerns and calling a special meeting as soon as they are ready.

Member Martin added that they should consider a procedural question about what is sufficient to hold up the work of the Council, adding that the level of community engagement will always be a work in progress. Sierra Rotakhina noted that a Council motion was not needed in order to continue this discussion at the next meeting or to hold a special meeting, so this guidance from the Council can move forward even though we lost quorum before the vote.

## VII. Discussion and Possible Adoption: 2025 EJ Council Legislative Statement and Procedure

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Co-Chair Batayola said Council Members were invited to review and provide feedback on an early draft of the Legislative Statement and Procedure and that the Budget Committee reviewed and edited it at their last meeting. She said that they split the document into two—one for the procedure since it does not need adoption each year and a second for the policy statement since it will need be revisited before each legislative session. Christy Hoff reviewed the documents, starting with the procedure. Member Ware asked for clarity on how the documents were drafted. Christy said that staff developed first drafts based on the version adopted last year, lessons learned from operationalizing the procedure last session, and feedback from Members, including discussion in the Budget Committee. She said that proposed policy positions were also based on comments heard in community meetings.

#### VIII. Discussion and Possible Adoption: EJ Council 2025 Meeting Schedule

The Council did not have time to discuss this item.

#### IX. Presentation: HEAL Agencies' Annual Update to the Council

The Council did not have time to discuss this item.

#### X. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Draft Guidance on Allocating, Measuring & Reporting HEAL and CCA Investments

The Council did not have time to discuss this item.

#### XI. Public Comment

No additional public comments were provided

#### XII. Appreciations and Adjournment

Co-Chair Batayola said the Council needs to discuss work planning for the future. She said the Council has a lot of incomplete tasks. She acknowledged that some responsibilities are iterative but asked how they can complete a cycle. She requested the Members engage in a conversation about

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future work planning. She thanked Sierra for bringing community comments forward and said the meeting was meaningful. She closed by saying that while it may have sounded like Council Members were in disagreement, they all held the principle of listening to community from different perspectives.

Co-Chair Batayola adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.