

Environmental Justice Council

March 20, 2025 Meeting Materials

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Consejo de Justicia Ambiental (Consejo de EJ)

Jueves 20 de marzo de 2025

De 3:30 p. m. a 6:30 p. m.

Para unirse al seminario web, haga clic en el siguiente enlace:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81747864781>

Id. del seminario web: 817 4786 4781

O únase por teléfono: +1 253 215 8782

Id. del seminario web: 817 4786 4781

Números internacionales disponibles: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6MggTvTL>

Objetivos de la reunión:

1. Aprender de un grupo de la comunidad sobre las preocupaciones, problemas, ideas, soluciones y victorias en materia de justicia ambiental en su comunidad.
2. Recibir un informe de la Oficina del Fiscal General sobre el contexto estatal y federal actual para sustentar los debates de planificación de la labor del Consejo en la reunión de hoy.
3. Debatir y alcanzar consensos sobre los principios y consideraciones fundamentales y el proceso que el Consejo utilizará para establecer las labores prioritarias durante un período piloto de seis meses con el objetivo de comprobar cómo funciona este enfoque. Una vez alcanzado el consenso, se aplica el proceso para seleccionar las prioridades del Consejo.

Orden del día

A las 3:20 p. m., los invitamos a participar de una presentación sobre cómo activar los subtítulos descriptivos y cómo unirse al canal de interpretación en español o ASL (por su sigla en inglés, lengua de señas estadounidense).

De 3:30 p. m. a
3:35 p. m.

I. Bienvenida y pasaje de lista para
verificar que haya cuórum

Copresidenta Tatiana
Brown

Honorable Jarred-Michael
Erickson

Miembros del Consejo

De 3:35 p. m. a 3:40 p. m.	II. Aprobación del orden del día por parte del Consejo III. Aprobación de las notas de la reunión del 30 de enero de 2025 por parte del Consejo - Posibles medidas del Consejo	David Mendoza, miembro del Consejo Miembros del Consejo
De 3:40 p. m. a 3:55 p. m.	IV. Conexión con la comunidad del Consejo de EJ Objetivo: Aprender de un grupo de la comunidad sobre las preocupaciones, problemas, ideas, soluciones y victorias en materia de justicia ambiental en su comunidad.	Cristina González, miembro del Consejo Sierra Red Bow, personal del Consejo Miembros del Consejo
De 3:55 p. m. a 4:10 p. m.	V. Consulta popular	Cristina González, miembro del Consejo
De 4:10 p. m. a 4:30 p. m.	VI. Informe: Contexto estatal y federal actual para sustentar la planificación de la labor del Consejo Objetivo: Recibir un informe de la Oficina del Fiscal General para brindar un contexto que sustente los debates de planificación de la labor del Consejo en la reunión de hoy.	Copresidenta Tatiana Brown Kristen K. Mitchell, fiscal general adjunta, Oficina del Fiscal General del Estado de Washington Miembros del Consejo
Receso de 10 minutos		
De 4:40 p. m. a 6:05 p. m.	VII. Proceso para establecer las labores prioritarias del Consejo de Justicia Ambiental 2025-2026	Copresidenta Tatiana Brown Running-Grass, miembro del Consejo

	<p>(los tiempos propuestos se ajustarán si es necesario un mayor debate)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informe, debate y posible aprobación: Principios y consideraciones fundamentales para establecer las labores prioritarias del Consejo (de 4:40 p. m. a 5:10 p. m.) 2. Informe, debate y posible aprobación: Proceso para establecer las prioridades (de 5:10 p. m. a 5:35 p. m.) 3. Una vez alcanzado el consenso sobre el proceso: Aplicación del proceso para establecer las prioridades/Selección de las prioridades (de 5:35 p. m. a 6:00 p. m.) 4. Próximos pasos (de 6:00 p. m. a 6:05 p. m.) <p>Objetivo: Debatir y alcanzar consensos sobre los principios y consideraciones fundamentales y el proceso que el Consejo utilizará para establecer las labores prioritarias durante un período piloto de seis meses con el objetivo de comprobar cómo funciona este enfoque. Una vez alcanzado el consenso, se aplica el proceso para seleccionar las prioridades del Consejo.</p>	<p>Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Raeshawna Ware, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
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	- Posibles medidas del Consejo	
Receso de 10 minutos		
De 6:15 p. m. a 6:25 p. m.	VIII. Consulta popular	Cristina González, miembro del Consejo
De 6:25 p. m. a 6:30 p. m.	IX. Agradecimientos y cierre	Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Copresidenta Tatiana Brown

Información importante:

- El Consejo puede cambiar los asuntos del orden del día el mismo día de la reunión.
- El número de contacto de emergencia durante la reunión es 360-584-4398.
- Para solicitar este documento en otro formato o en un idioma diferente, envíe un correo electrónico a Sierra Rotakhina en cualquier idioma a envjustice@ejc.wa.gov o llame al 360-584-4398.

Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council)

Thursday, March 20, 2025

3:30pm – 6:30pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81747864781>

Webinar ID: 817 4786 4781

Or Join by Phone: +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 817 4786 4781

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6MggTvTL>

Meeting Goals:

1. Learn from a community partner about environmental justice concerns, issues, ideas, solutions, and victories.
2. Receive a briefing from the Attorney General’s Office on the current state and federal context to inform the Council’s work planning discussions at today’s meeting.
3. Discuss and seek consensuses on the guiding principles/considerations and the process the Council will use to prioritize its work for a six-month pilot to see how this approach works. When consensus is reached apply the process to select Council priorities.

Agenda

Please join us at 3:20pm for a presentation on how to turn on closed captions and join the Spanish or ASL interpretation channel.

3:30 PM – 3:35 PM	I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum	Co-Chair Tatiana Brown The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Council Members
3:35 PM – 3:40 PM Meeting notes on page 8 .	II. Approval of Agenda by Council III. Approval of January 30, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council -Possible Council Action	Council Member David Mendoza Council Members

<p>3:40 PM – 3:55 PM</p> <p>Materials on page 20.</p>	<p>IV. EJ Council Community Connection</p> <p>Goal: Learn from a community partner about environmental justice concerns, issues, ideas, solutions, and victories.</p>	<p>Council Member Cristina González</p> <p>Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
<p>3:55 PM – 4:10 PM</p> <p>Written public comments on page 40.</p>	<p>V. Public Comment</p>	<p>Council Member Cristina González</p>
<p>4:10 PM – 4:30 PM</p> <p>Materials on page 21.</p>	<p>VI. Briefing: Current State and Federal Context to Inform Council Work Planning</p> <p>Goal: Receive a briefing from the Attorney General’s Office to provide context to inform the Council’s work planning discussions at today’s meeting.</p>	<p>Council Member David Mendoza</p> <p>Kristen K. Mitchell, Deputy Attorney General, Washington State Attorney General’s Office</p> <p>Council Members</p>
<p>10 Minute Break</p>		
<p>4:40 PM – 6:05 PM</p> <p>Materials on page 22.</p>	<p>VII. 2025-2026 EJ Council Work Prioritization Process (proposed times will be adjusted if more discussion is needed)</p> <p>1. Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Adoption: Guiding Principles and Considerations for Prioritizing Council Work (4:40pm-5:10pm)</p>	<p>Co-Chair Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Council Member Running-Grass</p> <p>Council Member Maria Batayola</p> <p>Council Member Raeshawna Ware</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>

	<p>2. Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Adoption: Prioritization Process (5:10pm-5:35pm)</p> <p>3. When Consensus is Reached on Process--Application of Prioritization Process/Selection of Priorities (5:35pm-6:00pm)</p> <p>4. Next Steps (6:00pm-6:05pm)</p> <p>Goal: Discuss and seek consensus on the guiding principles/considerations and the process the Council will use to prioritize its work for a six-month pilot to see how this approach works. When consensus is reached, apply the process to select Council priorities.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	
10 Minute Break		
6:15 PM – 6:25 PM Written public comments on page 40 .	VIII. Public Comment	Council Member Cristina González
6:25 PM – 6:30 PM	IX. Appreciations and Adjournment	The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson Co-Chair Tatiana Brown

Important Information:

- The Council may move agenda items around on the day of the meeting.
- Emergency contact number during the meeting is 360-584-4398.
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Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

01/30/2025

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](#). 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:

- Nichole Banegas - joined at 4:15pm
- Maria Batayola (Co-Chair) - joined at 3:48pm
- Maria Blancas
- Tatiana Brown
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)
- David Mendoza
- Todd Mitchell
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- Running-Grass
- The Honorable Monica Tonasket
- Raeshawna Ware
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

Council Members absent:

- Cristina González
- Rosalinda Guillen (on leave of absence)
- Esther Min

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Lea Anne Burke, Puget Sound Partnership
- Jennifer Grove, 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:

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

Guests and other participants:

- Melodi Wynne, Executive Director for the Spokane Tribal Network

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson, Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for an initial roll call. At the time of the roll call, there were ten voting members present, meeting quorum (see table).

14 Members / 1 Vacancy / 1 Leave of Absence / Current Quorum = 8		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Present
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Present
Cristina González	Community Representative	Absent
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Leave of Absence
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Present
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent

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Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Present
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	Present
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Present
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

II. Discussion: Emerging Issues

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, said Presidential Executive Orders have had an impact on communities, and she would like to ask staff to convene the Council to receive briefings on the impact. Co-Chair Erickson said we want to be aware of state or federal changes that affect the Council's work. Tatiana Brown, Council Member, said cuts at the state level would be good to know about and asked for staff to share in a centralized document, suggesting the Council can write a letter in support of those programs. EJ Juárez, Ex Officio Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources, said the agencies are gathering a lot of information about these changes, so agencies may not be able to respond to Council requests in a timely fashion.

III. Approval of Agenda by Council

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, facilitated adoption of the [agenda](#).

Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

Motion/Second: Lua Pritchard/Todd Mitchell. No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

IV. Approval of November 21, 2024 Meeting Notes by Council

Sierra Rotakhina facilitated adoption of the [meeting notes](#), see page 9.

Motion: The Council adopts the November 21, 2024 meeting notes.

Motion/Second: Lua Pritchard/Raeshawna Ware. No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

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V. Consider Approval of the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule

Council Members discussed possible dates and locations for a full day, in-person meeting.

Motion: The Council adopts the proposed [2025 Council Meeting Schedule](#), see page19, with any changes agreed upon by the full Council at the January 30, 2025 meeting.

Motion/Second: Todd Mitchell/Lua Pritchard. No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

VI. Convening Workgroup on How the Council Listens to and Supports Communities in Expressing Their Thoughts and Ideas and Development of Policy or Process around Anonymous or Confidential Public Comments

Sierra Rotakhina said the Council has accepted anonymous and confidential public comments in the past and that a process or policy is needed to guide staff and Members in how to navigate this. Co-Chair Batayola asked for volunteers to serve on a short term, ad hoc workgroup to draft a policy and/or process. The following Council Members volunteered to serve: Running-Grass, Maria Blancas, Tatiana Brown, Lua Pritchard, and Maria Batayola.

VII. Public Comment

Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, opened up the public comment period.

David Bulindah, Wakulima USA, introduced themselves as an immigrant and a member of a community that is experiencing fear. They asked if there are recommendations the Council is making to the Governor's Office to support communities. They said that they are recipients of the HEAL [capacity grant] funding and they do not know if that funding will continue or not. David Mendoza, Council Member, said they feel anxiety and fear as well. He said as a body, they have not had time to discuss how their work will shift, adding that their state mandate has not changed, and they remain committed to doing the work. He said the Council made recommendations for continued funding for the HEAL capacity grants.

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Judith Gorman said she is impressed with the Council. She said Soap Lake has a boat dock process and Soap Lake is the first in the country to be recognized as an “outstanding resource water.” They said the process the Department of Ecology (Ecology) set up when it was approved as an outstanding resource water, required Ecology to ensure Tier 3B was implemented. They said Ecology has done nothing in the last year to study pollution, which is a simple conductivity measurement. They said they are upset about the lack of movement and implementation was dropped by the regional office. Co-Chair Erickson said his Tribe had a separate consultation with Ecology on this topic.

Maricela Santana-Walle, Environmental Justice Coordinator for We are ELLA, said they received a HEAL community capacity grant and have convened a multigenerational group and is actively engaging with state agencies, including the Departments of Health, Ecology, and Agriculture. They are learning about the HEAL act, the CCA, and sharing experiences with water and air contamination in the lower Yakima Valley. They said they have the following priorities: (1) clean water and air (particularly nitrate contamination), (2) air contamination, (3) lack of access and affordability to recycling services, (4) immigration rights (including lack of personal protective equipment and lack of health information), and (5) dog and cat shelters. They will raise awareness in the community in English and Spanish. They are preparing for Lobby Day where they will be meeting with Legislators. Co-Chair Batayola shared gratitude and Member Brown asked if she could share written materials.

VIII. Election of Council Executive Committee

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, provided an overview of the Council’s bylaws regarding the election of Executive Committee Members and Co-Chairs. She shared the names of Council Members who have been nominated and who have accepted their nominations. Nominees shared statements about themselves and what they would bring to the Executive Committee. Given that

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five Council Members were running for the five Executive Committee seats the Council suspended the bylaws to simplify that election process for this one election.

Motion: The Council suspends the bylaws to elects the following Executive Committee Member nominees as a full slate: David Mendoza, Jarred-Michael Erickson, Cristina González, Tatiana Brown, and Maria Batayola.

Motion/Second: Lua Pritchard/JJ Wilbur. **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.

14 Members / 1 Vacancy / 1 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 8		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	A
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
Cristina González	Community Representative	Absent
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Leave of Absence
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A

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Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	A
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

The Council then voted to reinstate the bylaws.

Motion: The Council moves to reinstate the bylaws.

Motion/Second: Maria Batayola/Lua Pritchard. No objections noted. **The Motion Passed.**

Sierra Rotakhina facilitated election of the Co-Chairs from among the newly elected Executive Committee members. No co-chair ticket received a majority of the votes (see [Appendix A](#)), so per the bylaws a run-off election was held between the top two tickets. Co-Chair Erickson and Member Brown won the election as the next Co-Chairs of the Council (see [Appendix B](#)).

Members shared a desire for the Governance Committee to discuss attendance requirements for Executive Committee Members and Co-Chairs.

IX. Presentation: HEAL Agencies Annual Update to the Council

Rowena Pineda and Dana Myers, Council Staff, shared a [presentation](#) (see page 24). Member Mendoza thanked the agencies, stating that he can see the culture shift happening in the agencies and that it is an encouraging sign. Millie Piazza, Ex Officio Liaison for the Department of Ecology, said they integrate environmental justice into work, whether it is a requirement of HEAL or not. Ahmer Nizam, Ex Officio Liaison for the Department of Transportation, said there is a substantial amount of work that goes into change management to achieve cultural change in the agency. Ex Officio Liaison Juárez said after an Environmental Justice Assessment is completed, staff use the assessment results to make program and process improvements.

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X. 2025 Legislative Session Update

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

XI. Discussion: 2025 Council Work Planning and Approach to Council Work

Co-Chair Batayola said this agenda is the start of a conversation on how the Council approaches its work in 2025. She shared some observations on how the Council has worked to date, including often low participation in committee meetings and starting and stopping of momentum on individual projects. Members shared their own observations including:

- Low participation in committees
- Starting and stopping of momentum on individual projects
- Less meeting time to formally take action
- Not having a visual of all work requirements and commitments
- Spending a lot of time on process
- Balancing statutory requirements and other projects
- Recognition of the value each Member brings (lived experience, technical expertise)
- Need to prioritize and set a workplan on what can realistically be accomplished with meaningful engagement
- Need to discuss and determine how much the Council wants to track implementation and accountability after a budget recommendation is funded

The following Council Members, staff, and Ex Officio Liaisons volunteered to develop a work plan proposal for the full Council's consideration: Sierra Rotakhina, Member Brown, Member Ware, Ex Officio Liaison Juárez, Ex Officio Liaison Nizam, Ex Officio Liaison Piazza, Co-Chair Batayola, Member Running-Grass.

XII. Community Connection

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Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, introduced Melodi Wynne, Executive Director for the Spokane Tribal Network, who gave a presentation. Melodi shared information about their demonstration garden aimed at achieving tribal food sovereignty. The presentation also covered Network programs, environmental impacts, and future projects. Member Mendoza thanked Melodi for sharing the work they are doing.

XIII. Public Comment

No additional public comments provided.

XIV. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-Chair Batayola thanked everyone for their participation. Lea Anne Burke, Ex Officio Liaison from the Puget Sound Partnership, shared a resource on their agency website for legislative updates: <https://psp.wa.gov/state-government-relations.php>. Co-Chair Batayola adjourned the meeting.

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Appendix A: Council Co-Chair Election Vote Counts

	Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson/ Maria Batayola	Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson/ Tatiana Brown	Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson/ Cristina González	Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson/ David Mendoza	Maria Batayola/ Cristina González	Maria Batayola/ Tatiana Brown	Maria Batayola/ David Mendoza	Tatiana Brown/ Cristina González	Tatiana Brown/ David Mendoza	Cristina González/ David Mendoza	Abstain	Absent
Nichole Banegas		1										
Maria Batayola							1					
Maria Blancas		1										
Tatiana Brown		1										
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	1											
Cristina González												Absent
Rosalinda Guillen												Leave of Absence
David Mendoza							1					
Esther Min (through proxy)		1										

Todd Mitchell							1					
Faaluaina Pritchard							1					
Running-Grass		1										
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	1											
Raeshawna Ware							1					
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	1											
Total	3	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of Votes	23.07692308	38.46153846	0	0	0	0	38.46153846	0	0	0		

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Appendix B: Council Co-Chair Election Run-Off Vote Counts

	Chairman Jarred- Michael Erickson/ Tatiana Brown	Maria Batayola/ David Mendoza	Abstain	Absent
Nichole Banegas	1			
Maria Batayola		1		
Maria Blancas	1			
Tatiana Brown	1			
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	1			
Cristina González				Absent
Rosalinda Guillen				Leave of Absence
David Mendoza		1		
Esther Min (through proxy)	1			
Todd Mitchell		1		
Faaluaina Pritchard		1		
Running-Grass	1			
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	1			
Raeshawna Ware		1		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	1			
Total	8	5	0	0
Percentage of Votes	61.53846154	38.46153846		

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: March 20, 2025

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Red Bow, Council Community and Tribal Engagement Supervisor

Subject: Community Connection

Background:

Each Council meeting includes time on the agenda for “Community Connections.” The goals of this agenda item are for the Council to learn from Tribes and community groups about environmental justice issues, ideas, and solutions in their communities.

Staff Contact:

Sierra Red Bow, Council Community and Tribal Engagement Supervisor,

Sierra.RedBow@ejc.wa.gov, 564-669-4791

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: March 20, 2025

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

Subject: Current State and Federal Context to Inform Council Work Planning

Background and Summary:

At the January meeting, the Council took some time to discuss how the Presidential Executive Orders and the state budget shortfall have had and will continue to have an impact on communities. Members requested a briefing to more fully understand policy and budget changes at both the State and Federal levels. Members indicated that such information would provide useful context for the Council's work plan development.

During this agenda item, Kristen K. Mitchell, Deputy Attorney General for the Washington State Attorney General's Office will provide a briefing.

Staff

Sierra Rotakhina, EJ Council Manager, sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov, 360-584-4398

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Environmental Justice Council

Date: March 20, 2025

To: Environmental Justice Council Members

From: Sierra Rotakhina, Environmental Justice Council Manager

Subject: 2025-2026 EJ Council Work Prioritization Process

Background and Summary:

At the January meeting, Council Members began a discussion to reflect on its past work and to reimagine how it approaches its work in 2025. At that meeting, a group of Governor-Appointed and Ex Officio Council Members (the Work Planning Group) agreed to meet and develop a proposal for the full Council's consideration.

The Work Planning Group met on Friday March 7 and Tuesday March 11 and developed the following for the Council's discussion today:

1. Guiding principles and considerations for the Council to use to select an initial set of work priorities (see [page 24](#) of the meeting packet).
2. A process the Council can use today to identify three priority projects to focus on first as part of a six- month pilot to see how this approach to work planning and workload management works for the Council (see [page 26](#) of the meeting packet).

Guiding Principles and Considerations:

At today's meeting, the Council has an opportunity to review and discuss the draft guiding principles and considerations being proposed by the Work Planning Group. The group intends for the Council to review, discuss, and agree on a set of guiding principles and considerations for the specific purpose of selecting its initial project priorities at today's meeting. The Work Planning Group does not intend for these principles and considerations to be adopted as the

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formal guiding principles and considerations that the Council would use for future decision-making. Given the intent of these considerations to be focused on guiding just today's process, the Council may opt to discuss and informally reach consensus on these today or to more formally adopt these through a vote. If the Council opts for a more formal adoption, staff have provided a draft motion below that Council Members can amend and adopt if desired.

Project Prioritization Process:

The Council also has time at today's meeting to discuss the draft process for prioritizing projects developed by the Work Planning Group. Once consensus is reached on this prioritization process the Council can use that process to identify the three projects that they want to focus on first for a six month pilot to test out this way of approaching its work. If the Council opts to formally adopt this process for today, staff have provided a draft motion below that Council Members can amend and adopt if desired.

Council Staff Recommended Actions:

The Council may wish to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motions:

Guiding Principles and Considerations:

The Council adopts the proposed Guiding Principles and Considerations for today's work prioritization with any changes agreed upon by the full Council at the March 20, 2025 meeting.

Project Prioritization Process:

The Council adopts the project prioritization process proposed for today's work prioritization with any changes agreed upon by the full Council at the March 20, 2025 meeting.

Staff

Sierra Rotakhina, EJ Council Manager, sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov, 360-584-4398

Draft Guiding Principles and Considerations for Environmental Justice Council Work Prioritization for March 20, 2025

Guiding Principles

Projects that the Council selects as its priorities:

1. Should be strategic.
2. Should reflect Tribal or community priority environmental justice issues.
3. Should strengthen environmental justice efforts and further progress toward realizing the HEAL Act by:
 - a. Reducing environmental and health disparities in Washington State and improving the health of all residents;
 - b. Equitably distributing resources and benefits; and/or
 - c. Eliminating harm.

Considerations

- **Responsibility:** HEAL Act and Climate Commitment Act statutory requirements.
- **Centers Values:** Needed to uplift the Council's [Community Engagement Values and Guidance](#) and [Statement on Tribal Sovereignty; Self Determination; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent](#).
- **Interagency Workgroup Priorities:** HEAL Interagency Workgroup priority.
- **Current Projects Already Underway**
- **Impact:** The project, if uncompleted, poses high risk or high impact to Tribes, communities, HEAL agencies, and/or the Council.

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- **Governance/Operations:** Structure and support needed for productive work (Council governance or process needed to ensure the Council can complete its work and stay aligned with its values).
- **Durability:** Brings stability, consistency, and resiliency to the EJ Council, HEAL, and environmental justice work.
- **Capacity:** There is Council Member (Appointed and Ex Officio Members) and staff capacity to complete and set up the project for success.
- **Resources:** There are resources, such as funding, staffing, connections, etc. (as needed) available to complete and set up the project for success.
- **Relationship Building:** Project builds trust and strengthens relationships based in mutual understanding, collaboration, and reciprocity with Tribes, communities, and agency partners.
- **Sequencing Work:** A project should be completed sequentially for maximum result.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or 360-584-4398. TTY users can dial 711.

Draft Project Prioritization Process for Environmental Justice Council for March 20, 2025 Council Meeting

1. The Council reviews, amends as needed, and comes to consensus on the draft Guiding Principles and Considerations for Council project prioritization (draft on [page 24](#) of the meeting packet).
 - a) These are the principles and considerations Council members are encouraged to center as they identify which three projects the Council wants to focus on first for a six-month pilot to test out this focused way of approaching its work.
 - b) The intent of choosing three projects to focus on first is to improve the likelihood that these projects will be completed on reasonable timelines and using environmental justice values, such as Tribal and community engagement. This will also leave staff and Member capacity to be responsive to unanticipated workloads, such as environmental justice priorities raised by Tribes and communities and workloads generated by the state and federal landscapes.
 - c) As projects are completed the Council will begin work on the next identified projects.
2. The Council will identify three projects today using the following steps:
 - a) Council reviews the list of Council “projects that are underway” ([page 28](#)) and the list of “projects that are not yet underway” (project that have not yet been started by the Council) ([page 34](#)). These projects are grouped into the following categories: HEAL statutory requirements; Climate Commitment Act (CCA) statutory requirements; and projects needed for EJ Council Governance/Operations. While the Council will not be required to pick a project from each category, the projects are categorized this way in alignment with the Council’s [Work Planning and Management Principles](#) (adopted in 2024) which indicate that the Council will dedicate equal time to CCA¹ and HEAL², will

¹ CCA purpose under RCW 70A.65.005: “The legislature further intends to empower the Environmental Justice Council established under RCW 70A.02.110 to provide recommendations for the development and implementation of the program, the distribution of funds, and the establishment of programs, activities, and projects to achieve environmental justice and environmental health goals.”

² HEAL purpose under RCW [70A.02.005](#): “Reduce environmental and health disparities in Washington state and improve the health of all Washington state residents.”

focus on Tribal and community priorities, and will dedicate time to attend to its own governance/operations.

- b) The list of “projects underway” is the list that the Council will select the first three projects from. Council Members will have an opportunity to indicate if they would like a project on the list of “projects not yet underway” to also be considered as a possible project for the Council to focus on first.
 - c) Each Council Member (Governor-Appointed and Ex Officio) will have an opportunity to share what projects they would like to see the Council focus on first and how those projects align with the Guiding Principles and Considerations adopted in step 1 above.
 - d) Centering the Guiding Principles and Considerations, each Council Member (Governor-Appointed and Ex Officio) can put their name next to up to three projects they are willing to invest their time and expertise into completing.
 - e) The three projects with the most Member support will be selected as the three projects the Council will focus on first.
3. Once the three projects are selected, Council Members (Governor-Appointed and Ex Officio) will volunteer to be on the project work groups. Following the Council meeting, each project work group will meet to determine their workplan, timeline, resource needs, and how they will complete the work.
 3. The Council will **pause** convening existing committees other than the Executive Committee (and the Tribal Caucus as needed) to create staff and Council Member capacity for the three new project work groups.
 4. The Council will direct staff to focus their time and Council resources on the three projects selected by the Council and to table other work. Once the prioritized projects have workplans and the resources and time needed for each project are established, the Council will adjust the workload as needed (up or down).
 5. As projects are completed the Council will begin work on the next identified projects.

Environmental Justice Council Project List

Projects Underway by the Council

Last Updated March 14, 2025

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Budget Recommendation Development	CCA (Climate Commitment Act)	Work with Council and partners to adopt budget recommendations in anticipation of Governor's release of budget proposals each December	Underway: Ongoing	Yes 70A.65.040(1) 70A.65.040(2aii)	Annually, typically in Spring/Fall. Submit in September. Could be moved to a year-round activity.
Linkage	CCA	Develop a position statement on a linkage agreement and/or rule changes to facilitate linkage. May include potential policy recommendations that address the potential negative impacts of linkage from an analysis by Resources for the Future	Underway: Significant time invested (Working on for 2 years)	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	March 2025 and ongoing (provide input before 2027)
Recommendations on Ecology's CCA community engagement plan	CCA	Guidance to Ecology on meaningful engagement for Ecology's community engagement plan	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	Yes 70A.65.040	
Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant Program	CCA	Learn about grant recipients and their specific project details. Provide feedback if needed.	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	Yes 70A.65.040 (2e)	April/May for presentation

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Rulemaking for Air Quality	CCA	Processes and strategies for emission reductions to achieve air quality targets. Develop recommendations to ensure the reduction of health harming emissions.	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	October
Expanding Air Monitoring	CCA	Adding air monitors in overburdened communities that had existing air monitors prior to the CCA	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	Ongoing through 2025
Air Quality Program Community and Tribal Engagement	CCA	Ecology developing an MOU with 7 Tribes most impacted by air pollution	Underway: Started (little work done so far)	yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	Ongoing through 2026
Guidance for HEAL/CCA Investments (and/or HEAL Interagency Workgroup Tip Sheets)	CCA and HEAL	Provide a guidance document outlining what investments qualify as environmental benefits and direct and meaningful benefits	Underway: Significant time dedicated	Maybe 70A.65.040(2)(c) 70A.65.040(2e) 70A.65.040(2f) 70A.65.02.110	6/1/2025 for guidance and 4/22/25 for tip sheet
Public Comment Process	Governance/ Operations	Formalized process for collecting, analyzing, and being responsive to public comments	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
Data protections policy/ procedure	Governance/ Operations	Develop Council policy/procedure to protect information collected through public comment, etc.	Underway: Brainstorming stage	No	
Public Comment Database	Governance/ Operations	Public comment intake, tracking, analysis	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
EJ Council Communications Plans (precursor to full engagement plan)	Governance/ Operations	Communications goals, process, and outcomes	Underway: Brainstorming stage	No	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
MOU between EJC and Department of Health (DOH)	Governance/ Operations	Develop an MOU between DOH and the EJC to cover things like data ownership, IT support, etc.	Underway: Staff draft only	No	
Public Comment Dashboard	Governance/ Operations	Develop a way to display public comments, EJC actions taken to be responsive, status, etc.	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
Council Tribal Engagement Plan and/or Collaboration/Consultation Policy	Governance/ Operations	Plan or policy for how we will engage Tribes when the Council takes actions/makes recommendations that impact Tribes	Underway: Brainstorming stage	No	
Council Community Engagement Plan	Governance/ Operations	Plan for how the Council will engage and work with communities	Underway: Brainstorming stage	no	
MOU with Ecology	Governance/ Operations	An MOU would set expectations for how Ecology responds	Underway: CCA Committee worked on draft with Ecology's Deputy Director	no	
Ethics Procedure	Governance/ Operations	Development of a procedure to implement the Ethics Article of the Bylaws	Underway: Significant time dedicated	no	
EJ Council Website Update/ Development	Governance/ Operations	Transition of EJC website to new platform with more functionality.	Underway: Early	no	
EJ Council Branding	Governance/ Operations	The EJC hasn't adopted colors, branding, etc.	Underway: early	no	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Youth Advisory Council	Governance/ Operations	Former EJ Council youth representative brought this idea to the full EJC and it was endorsed. We have not had the capacity to stand this up.	Underway: Timeline (outdated) and process proposed to Council	no	
EJ Council guidance on Environmental Justice Assessments (EJAs)	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into EJAs	Underway: Significant time dedicated	Yes	expect a year or more
EJ Council HEAL Budgeting and Funding Guidance	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into budgeting and funding criteria/decisions	Could be connected to Guidance for HEAL/CCA Investments work underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9b)	
Standards for disaggregating data	HEAL	DOH is lead in statute Work with DOH/others to create standards for data collection, analysis, reporting of disaggregated data for Washington	Underway: Primarily staff work (join cross-enterprise convenings); have related budget recommendation	Yes 70A.02.110(6a)	
Performance measures / Metrics	HEAL	DOH is lead in statute; Work with DOH/others to create statewide and agency specific process and outcome measures to show performance	Underway: HEAL Interagency Workgroup had a subcommittee that began drafting metrics; agency strategic plans have metrics	Yes 70A.02.110(6b)	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Follow up steps for 2024 Central Washington Community Meeting	HEAL	The Council has a statutory duty to serve as a forum. The May 2024 community meeting was one forum created through a community meeting.	Underway: Community forum and summary completed. Needs follow-up steps	No	
Non-HEAL community engagement plans	HEAL	guidance to agencies on meaningful engagement and community engagement plans	Underway: Staff only work so far -- provide technical support for non-HEAL agencies	Yes 70A.65.040	
Council Policy Positions	Other	Work with Council to adopt policy positions in anticipation of legislative session	Underway: Ongoing	No	Annually, typically in the Fall. Could be moved to a year-round activity.
State government prepayment on grants and contracts	Other	Started as budget recommendation in 2024 but Budget Committee members asked for information from Assistant Attorney General as starting point	Underway: Staff work, gathered info when this was a budget recommendation	No	none
Environmental Justice Fund	Other	Creating an EJ Fund started as budget rec but Council deferred this to possible policy position at 11/2024 EJC meeting	Underway: Staff work, gathered info when this was a budget rec	No	none

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Community Engagement Guidance and Values Appendix	Other	This appendix is in draft form and was created alongside the Council’s Community Engagement Values and Guidance but was not adopted with that document	Underway: Significant time dedicated	No	
Clean Energy Siting Council	Other	Council staff have a seat on this Council to bring an environmental justice perspective to interagency discussions and decision-making processes related to siting and permitting of clean energy projects in Washington	Underway: Ongoing	Yes 43.394.010(1)(k) 43.394.020	April-October is timeline for drafting annual report

Environmental Justice Council Project List

Projects Not Underway for the Council

Note that projects may be in progress but the status column is focused on EJ Council involvement in the project.

Updated as of March 14, 2025

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Offsets – US Forestry	CCA (Climate Commitment Act)	Provide input on revisions to U.S. Forestry Protocol	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	May-25
Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed Industries (EITEs) Legislative Report	CCA	Develop a position statement on Ecology's approach to giving EITEs no-cost allowances for 2035-2050	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	July or August 2025
Offsets– Ozone Depleting Substances	CCA	Provide input on rule proposal to update Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Protocol	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	Mar-25
Air Quality grant review	CCA	Learn about Ecology's Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant receipts and their specific project details. Provide feedback if needed.	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2b) 70A.65.040 (2e) 70A.65.040 (2g)	Mar-25
Review CCA Spending Report	CCA	Evaluate CCA expenditures from the previous fiscal year and provide input	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040(2e)	
Cap and Invest program evaluation	CCA	Share information with EJC about the administration of allowances	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040 (2ai)	none

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Recommendations for environmental justice and environmental health goals	CCA	Develop recommendations for goals for programs funded with CCA funds and review agency annual reports on outcomes and progress toward meeting goals	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Biennial Air Quality Assessment in Overburdened Communities	CCA	Report of changes in criteria air pollutants, green house gas emissions, and impacts on human health in overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040(2b) 70A.65.040 (2g)	August and/or December2025 or Jan2026
Analyze CCA policies for impacts on communities	CCA	Provide a forum to analyze policies adopted under CCA to see if they lead to improvements with overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Recommend procedures and criteria for evaluating programs, activities, projects	CCA	Recommend procedures and criteria for evaluating programs, activities, projects	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Evaluate funding levels	CCA	Evaluate the level of funding provided to vulnerable populations and the funding of projects and activities in overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Recommendations for co-pollutant emission reduction goals	CCA	Recommendations for co-pollutant emission reduction goals in overburdened communities	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Recommendations to support public participation through capacity grants	CCA	Recommendations for how to support public participation through capacity grants	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Offset credit limits	CCA	Consult with Ecology on whether offsets are likely to contribute substantively to air pollution burden in an overburdened community to inform offset credit limits	Not underway	Yes 70A.65.040	
Confidential & Anonymous public comment	Governance/Operations	Develop protocol/process for the Council if receiving confidential and anonymous public comment	Not underway	No	none
Bylaws regular review	Governance/Operations	Bylaws require review by Governance Committee every 2 years starting at 3/28/24	Not underway	No (required by bylaws)	3/28/2026
Council Expectations	Governance/Operations	At the January 2025 meeting, Members requested that the Governance Committee discuss attendance requirements for Executive Committee Members and Co-Chairs. Members have also raised questions about expectations of Members during the public comment period, etc.	Not underway	No	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
EJ Council Logo	Governance/Operations	The Council does not have a logo or branding	Not underway	No	
EJ Council Strategic Plan	Governance/Operations	The Council has not developed its own strategic plan to guide and ground its work	Not underway	No	
Legislative report	HEAL	Biennial report to the Legislature and Governor and to the public evaluating agency progress in applying Council guidance and communicating each agency's progress and the state's progress in meeting state EJ goals and summarizing the work of the Council in meeting its HEAL statutory obligations.	Not underway	Yes	Dec 1, 2025 and biennially
EJ Council input/consultation on V3 of the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map	HEAL	HEAL requires the Department of Health to, in consultation with the Council, to develop and maintain the EHD map.	Not underway	Yes (sort of) 43.70.815	Draft planned for publication July 2025 followed by public comment period before finalization
EJ Council guidance on agency strategic plans	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into agency strategic plans	Not underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9b)	

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
EJ Council guidance on community engagement plans (updated /iterative)	HEAL	Guidance for EJ implementation into community engagement plans	Not underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9b)	
Performance Dashboard	HEAL	<p>Work with DOH/others to create an online performance dashboard of measures and outcomes for the state and each agency</p> <p>DOH is lead in statute. Staff believe this statutory obligation can likely be met with Office of Financial Management (OFM) dashboard required by RCW 70A.02.090(2)(b)</p>	Not Underway (EJC has only given high level individual feedback on the OFM dashboard)	Yes 70A.02.110(6c)	
Recommendations on additional Significant Agency Actions	HEAL	The HEAL Act asks agencies to identify significant agency actions that should require an Environmental Justice Assessment in addition to those listed in the law.	Not underway	Yes 70A.02.110(9cii)	
Clean Vehicles Rulemaking	Other	Provide input on adoption of California emissions standards for new motor vehicles & engines	Not underway	No	June

Project Name	Category	Short Description of Project or Other Notes	Project Status (Council Involvement/ Investment)	Statutorily Required (if yes include RCW)	External due date or timeline?
Department of Health Participatory Budgeting Proviso	Other	Sec 222(124) directs the EJ Council to partner with the Department of Health in engaging in participatory budgeting with five communities	Not underway	Yes Operating Budget Proviso	
Department of Health Worker Safety Grants	Other	Sec 222(26) directs the Department of Health to consult with the EJ Council and others to evaluate mechanisms to provide workers with financial assistance to cover lost wages or other hardships caused by extreme weather & climate threats.	Not underway	Yes Operating Budget Proviso	

Written Public Comments

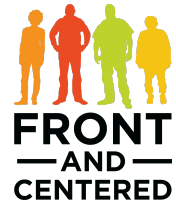
The following section of the meeting packet includes written public comments submitted to the Council that do not necessarily reflect the positions or values of the Environmental Justice Council.

No one but each Tribe can speak for the Tribe and the Council is committed to their Tribal sovereignty.

From: Haregeweyni Asfaw
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 4:03 PM
To: DOH EPH OEPHS Environmental Justice <envjustice@ejc.wa.gov>
Subject: EEJ worriors

External Email

Good afternoon Environmental Justice Council, my name is Haregeweyni . I am a member of the Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders and represent the Tigray community. I support the continuation of the DOH Environmental Justice grant because it helps overburdened communities like me reduce environmental harms in our homes and neighborhoods. This funding allows us to reach our communities in the languages and ways we know best.



March 14, 2025

The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson, Co-Chair
Ms. Tatiana Brown, Co-Chair
Environmental Justice Council
Washington State Department of Health
111 Israel Rd SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

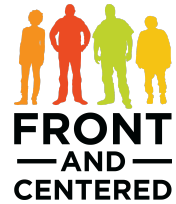
RE: Reflections and Recommendations 2025 EJC Goals

Dear Co-Chair Erickson and Co-Chair Brown,

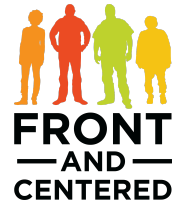
Congratulations on your co-chairship of the Environmental Justice Council! After some time away from the EJC, I wanted to convey some reflections and recommendations. I share these in the spirit of my appreciation for the work we have done together as individual EJC members and a commitment on behalf of Front and Centered to continue doing our part to realize the promise of HEAL. Even during these especially difficult times when political economic pressures may question the relevance and value of pursuing environmental justice and addressing the climate crisis, I believe Washington must continue leading on all fronts as demonstrated in how HEAL represents the substance and seeds of policy innovation, sustainable economic development for a new economy, clean energy infrastructure, and a framework for participatory governance. To this end, I am hopeful that the EJC will continue developing as a dynamic forum to help shape the future of Washington.

I want to encourage or challenge the EJC to seek at least three ways in which community perspectives show up and are connected each time the EJC holds a meeting, such that a deliberate plan and review of the agenda's topical policies and procedures may be actively considered – through public testimony, representative data, impact on the bottom line of disparities. The following recommendations are based on my reflections of how the Council might sharpen its role, promote even more productive dialogue between all members, and stay focused on the statutory requirements of the HEAL Act and CCA.

- **Community Engagement:**
 - Enhance engagement by providing agencies with clear guidance on community outreach plans.

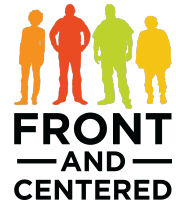


- Conduct annual Council listening sessions attended by Council members to inform guidance and ensure these meetings are open and transparent, as well as identify other meaningful community engagement by Council.
- Identify harms to frontline communities and prioritize benefits allocation through updated overburdened community identification strategies and equitable grantmaking.
- **Leadership and Governance:**
 - Create a process for the Council to establish EJC staff goals and feedback for them and their respective roles. In this regard, it will be helpful to orient new members of the Council (and remind longer serving members) about the staff roles so that the Council members can better understand and provide staff guidance.
 - Develop a set of community agreements that Council members abide by in meetings to prevent conflicts, and strive towards achieving workable unity between members.
 - Clarify the Council's role in implementing the HEAL Act and establish clear objectives and priorities. For example, high level policy guidance, ideation, and community perspective specifically seeking connecting between policy and people, is likely more appropriate than detailed analysis of issues, regulatory reform. Further, with regards to community engagement and strategic plans, the Council is uniquely positioned to more actively facilitate and receive input and feedback from different stakeholders; and in doing so, a helpful question to consider always asking is how does HEAL as a statewide policy, impact or interact with communities locally - from rural to urban regions. Such a question can be helpful to understand and prepare the context of public testimony and presentations.
 - Adopt resolutions to define the relationship between the Council and partner agencies, ensuring that deliberations result in actionable steps. Outlining expectations and milestones through a resolution will ensure the Council maintains focus on HEAL Act deliverables, while avoiding unnecessary diversions into discussions that distract from the task at hand.
 - Job descriptions outlining members' roles and responsibilities, clearly defining the members responsibility to their community or if they are representing an organization. For example, I served as a community representative reflecting my application and experience of serving



overburdened and vulnerable communities in my role at Front and Centered and prior work in civil legal aid; I was serving not as a legal practitioner but as a person working with people living in poverty and experiencing environmental and climate justice burdens.

- Strengthen transparency by holding more frequent in-person Council meetings in overburdened communities and fostering early-stage involvement of the diversity among community voices.
- **Transparency:**
 - Make Council committee meetings, such as the Budget and Climate Commitment Act committees, open to the public.
 - Council staff should defer and confer at least with the Executive Committee or full Council when questions of Council business, proposals, ethics or integrity are presented. In this regard, it was a challenging issue to reconcile in October 2024 when anonymous input was provided to EJC staff which ultimately caused strategic error, unnecessary tension, and disrupted Council business and key recommendations. Council members serving as public leaders were unable to fulfill our duties with incomplete information.
- **Interagency Coordination:**
 - Improve collaboration within and among agencies by establishing uniform guidance and reporting standards.
 - Address gaps in data collection and consistency by advocating for shared technology and streamlined communication systems across agencies.
 - Conduct audits of agency actions to create best practices.
- **Resource Prioritization:**
 - Focus on statutory responsibilities under the HEAL Act, avoiding distractions from non-essential business, like agency-specific requests.
 - Require ex-officio attendance at committee meetings to field questions and concerns by agency staff to avoid utilizing Council meetings for those purposes. Quite often agency questions have taken up valuable council member time and prevented the Council from taking action.
- **Timelines and Challenges:**
 - Align council timelines with agency processes to integrate environmental justice principles into strategic planning cycles.
 - Tailor solutions for larger agencies with complex structures and support inter-division communication to ensure comprehensive implementation.



- **Legal Consistency:**

- Collaborate with the Attorney General's Office to standardize interpretations of the HEAL Act, ensuring clear and consistent guidance for all agencies.

To measure progress, I recommend tracking key indicators, reductions in environmental health disparities, the percentage of statutory deliverables completed on time, and the allocation of resources to overburdened communities. Regular evaluations of community engagement efforts, interagency coordination, and governance practices will provide valuable insights to refine strategies and sustain momentum.

I look forward to continued partnership with the EJC as we realize the promise HEAL together. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is interest in further discussing these reflections and recommendations or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Aurora Martin
Executive Director
Front and Centered

CC: Governor Bob Ferguson
Lea Anne Burke, Puget Sound Partnership
Jennifer Grove, 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