

# Environmental Justice Council

## December 4, 2025 Meeting Materials

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## **Consejo de Justicia Ambiental (Consejo de EJ)**

Jueves, 4 de diciembre 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/kd6MqgTvTL>

### **Objetivos de la reunión**

1. Debatar y, en su caso, adoptar medidas por parte del Consejo en respuesta a la pérdida de protecciones federales ambientales y de recursos culturales y a los posibles riesgos para los datos tribales y comunitarios.
2. Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar la Declaración de Política Legislativa para 2026.
3. Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar principios y valores del presupuesto adicionales.
4. Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar el calendario de reuniones del Consejo para 2026.
5. Recibir información actualizada sobre el mapa de disparidades sanitarias ambientales.

### **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, Lenguaje de Señas Americano).

De 3:30 p. m. a 3:35 p. m.	I. Bienvenida y pasaje de lista para verificar que haya cuórum	Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson  Copresidenta Tatiana Brown  Miembros del Consejo
De 3:35 p. m. a 3:40 p. m.	II. Reflexiones, agradecimientos y celebraciones de 2025	Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson  Copresidenta Tatiana Brown  Miembro del Consejo Running-Grass  Miembros del Consejo
De 3:40 p. m. a 3:45 p. m.	III. Homenaje a la vida y obra de Theo Cielos	Miembro del Consejo Running-Grass  Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo  Raeshawna Ware, miembro del Consejo  Miembros y personal del Consejo
De 3:45 p. m. a 3:50 p. m.	IV. Aprobación del orden del día por parte del Consejo  V. Aprobación de las notas de la reunión del 9 de mayo, 24 de julio, 25 de septiembre y 10 de octubre de 2025 por parte del Consejo  - Posibles medidas del Consejo	Maria Batayola, miembro del Consejo  Miembros del Consejo

De 3:50 p. m. a 4:05 p. m.	VI. Comentarios públicos	Miembro del Consejo Cristina González Torres
De 4:05 p. m. a 4:35 p. m.	<p>VII. Abordar la pérdida de protecciones federales ambientales y de recursos culturales y los posibles riesgos para los datos tribales y comunitarios.</p> <p>Objetivo: Debatir y, en su caso, adoptar medidas por parte del Consejo en respuesta a la pérdida de protecciones federales ambientales y de recursos culturales y a los posibles riesgos para los datos tribales y comunitarios.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Copresidenta Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Allyson Brooks, DAHP</p> <p>Sierra Red Bow, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
Receso de 10 minutos		
De 4:45 p. m. a 5:20 p. m.	<p>VIII. Debate y posible adopción: Declaración de Política Legislativa para 2026</p> <p>Objetivo: Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar la Declaración de Política Legislativa para 2026.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Copresidenta Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>

De 5:20 p. m. a 5:40 p. m.	<p>IX. Debate y posible adopción: Principios y valores del presupuesto adicionales del Consejo</p> <p>Objetivo: Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar principios y valores del presupuesto adicionales.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Miembro del Consejo David Mendoza</p> <p>Christy Hoff, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Miembros del Consejo</p>
Receso de 5 minutos		
De 5:45 p. m. a 5:55 p. m.	<p>X. Debate y posible adopción: Calendario de reuniones del Consejo para 2026</p> <p>Objetivo: Revisar, debatir y considerar la posibilidad de adoptar el calendario de reuniones del Consejo para 2026.</p> <p>- Posibles medidas del Consejo</p>	<p>Cristina González Torres, miembro del Consejo</p>
De 5:55 p. m. a 6:25 p. m.	<p>XI. Presentación: Actualizaciones del mapa de disparidades sanitarias ambientales</p> <p>Objetivo: Recibir información actualizada sobre el mapa de disparidades sanitarias ambientales.</p>	<p>Cristina González Torres, miembro del Consejo</p> <p>Sierra Red Bow, personal del Consejo</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, personal del Consejo</p>

De 6:25 p. m. a 6:30 p. m.	XII. Agradecimientos y cierre	Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson

### 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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) o llame al 360-584-4398.

## Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council)

Thursday December 4, 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/kd6MqgTvTL>

### Meeting Goals

1. Discussion and possible Council action in response to the loss of federal environmental and cultural resource protections and potential risks to tribal and community data.
2. Review, discuss, and consider adoption of the 2026 Legislative Policy Statement.
3. Review, discuss, and consider adoption of additional budget values and principles.
4. Review, discuss, and consider adoption of the 2026 Council meeting schedule.
5. Receive an update on the Environmental Health Disparities Map.

### 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	The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson  Co-Chair Tatiana Brown  Council Members
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3:35 PM – 3:40 PM	II. 2025 Reflections, Appreciation, and Celebration	The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson  Co-Chair Tatiana Brown  Council Member Running-Grass  Council Members
3:40 PM – 3:45 PM	III. Honoring Theo Cielos' Life and Work	Council Member Running-Grass  Council Member Maria Batayola  Council Member Raeshawna Ware  Council Members and Staff
3:45 PM – 3:50 PM  Meeting notes on <a href="#">page 11</a>	IV. Approval of Agenda by Council  V. Approval of May 9, July 24, September 25, and October 10, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council  -Possible Council Action	Council Member Maria Batayola  Council Members
3:50 PM – 4:05 PM	VI. Public Comment	Council Member Cristina González Torres
4:05 PM – 4:35 PM  Materials on <a href="#">page 39</a> .	VII. Addressing the Loss of Federal Environmental and Cultural Resource Protections and the Potential Risks to Tribal and Community Data.  Goal: Discussion and possible Council action in response to the loss of federal	Council Member Maria Batayola  Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer/Executive Director, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation



	<p>environmental and cultural resource protections and potential risks to tribal and community data.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
10 Minute Break		
<p>4:45PM – 5:20 PM</p> <p>Materials on <a href="#">page 42</a>.</p>	<p>VIII. Discussion and Possible Adoption: 2026 Legislative Policy Statement</p> <p>Goal: Review, discuss, and consider adoption of the 2026 Legislative Policy Statement.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Co-Chair Tatiana Brown</p> <p>Christy Hoff, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
<p>5:20 PM – 5:40 PM</p> <p>Materials on <a href="#">page 48</a>.</p>	<p>IX. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Additional Council Budget Values and Principles</p> <p>Goal: Review, discuss, and consider adoption of additional budget values and principles.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Council Member David Mendoza</p> <p>Christy Hoff, Council Staff</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p> <p>Council Members</p>
5 Minute Break		

<p>5:45 PM – 5:55 PM</p> <p>Materials on <a href="#">page 54</a>.</p>	<p>X. Discussion and Possible Adoption: 2026 Council Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Goal: Review, discuss, and consider adoption of the 2026 Council meeting schedule.</p> <p>-Possible Council Action</p>	<p>Council Member Cristina González Torres</p>
<p>5:55 PM – 6:25 PM</p>	<p>XI. Presentation: Environmental Health Disparities Map Updates</p> <p>Goal: Receive an update on the Environmental Health Disparities Map.</p>	<p>Council Member Cristina González Torres</p> <p>Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff</p> <p>Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff</p>
<p>6:25 PM – 6:30 PM</p>	<p>XII. Appreciation and Adjournment</p>	<p>The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson</p>

### 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.
- To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at [envjustice@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or 360-584-4398.

# Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

May 9, 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](https://www.waportal.org/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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or by calling 360-584-4398.

### Council Members present:

- Maria Batayola
- Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair), joined at 1:23 pm
- David Mendoza
- Esther Min, joined at 1:50 pm
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- Running-Grass
- The Honorable Monica Tonasket, joined at 1:35 pm
- Raeshawna Ware

### Council Members absent:

- Nichole Banegas
- Maria Blancas
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)
- Cristina González
- Rosalinda Guillen (leave of absence)
- Todd Mitchell
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

### Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Jennifer Grove, Department of Commerce
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Department of Natural Resources
- Emilie Litsinger, Puget Sound Partnership

- 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:

- Elaine Harvey, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Edwin Alberto Hernandez Reto, Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Maria Batayola, Council Member, called the meeting to order. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call. At the time of the initial roll call, there were five voting members present, not meeting quorum (see table). Three members joined later, allowing the Council to meet quorum for action items (see attendance above).

<b>15 Members / 1 Vacancy / 1 Leave of Absence / Current Quorum = 8</b>		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Council Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Cristina González	Community Representative	Absent
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Leave of Absence
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Present
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent

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

## II. Approval of Agenda by Council

Member Batayola facilitated adoption of the agenda.

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

No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

## III. Approval of March 20, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council

Member Batayola facilitated adoption of the March meeting notes.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the March 20, 2025 meeting notes with the edit as discussed during the meeting.

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

## IV. Public Comment

David Mendoza, Council Member, opened up the public comment period.

Anonymous Commenter shared information about a program where community members can attend ten weeks of training in environmental justice. They would like to expand garbage and recycling access in Burien, South Park, Highline, Des Moines, SeaTac, and Kent. They are also looking for more Spanish language information on local food programs (e.g., community gardens and public school meals). They would like to be connected to free or low-cost drug prevention programs for youth. They said that while websites are often accessible in Spanish, many community members do not have access to computers.

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Member Mendoza noted that there was written public comment submitted and encouraged Council Members to review it.

## V. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Council Work Plan

Tatiana Brown, Council Co-Chair, introduced the agenda item. She said the goal of this item is to discuss and possibly adopt a workplan that will take the Council through December 2026. Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, reviewed the process and discussions the Council has had about work planning. She walked Members through the draft workplan. She said staff met one-on-one to brief Members on the workplan prior to the meeting.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the proposed Work Plan and Timeline as presented at the May 9, 2025 meeting.

**Motion/Second:** Maria Batayola/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.

15 Members / 1 Vacancy / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 8		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	Tribal Representative	Absent

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(Council Co-Chair)		
Cristina González	Community Representative	Absent
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Leave of Absence
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

Running-Grass, Council Member, said Council Member engagement and attendance was more robust in the work planning process and attributed that to the time-bound tasks and concrete deliverable. He asked Members to sign up for a 4-6 week commitment to set up each workgroup for success with project level workplans and report on progress at the July meeting.

## VI. Budget Briefing

Member Mendoza asked staff to provide a briefing on the 2025-2027 biennial budget and how the Council's budget recommendations were incorporated. Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, referred members to the [crosswalk](#) outlining how the Council's budget recommendations were included in the budget as passed the legislature. She shared more detailed information about HEAL implementation funding.

## VII. Standing with Frontline Tribes and Communities

Member Mendoza said the actions the federal government is taking are not laws, they are executive orders. Courts and other actors are pushing back strongly, including Washington

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State's Attorney General. They are committed to ensuring the HEAL Act is protected and implemented. Sierra Rotakhina shared information about Executive Order 14260, Protecting American Energy from State Overreach. Co-Chair Brown said the Council wants to assure the community that the HEAL Act and the Climate Commitment Act are still being implemented.

## VIII. EJ Council Community Connection

Member Batayola, introduced the agenda item. Elaine Harvey, Watershed Department Manager for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, gave her presentation.

## IX. Presentation and Conversation with Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association (DVSA)

Member Batayola, introduced the agenda item. Edwin Alberto Hernandez Reto, Executive Director of the Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association (DVSA) shared a [presentation](#) about the Community Engagement Methodology Project in South Park. Member Brown said she attended the DVSA convenings and the work is super exciting.

## X. Public Comment

No comments provided during this period.

## XI. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-Chair Brown thanked the presenters and congratulated the Council for adoption of the workplan. She said the next meeting is in July and she looks forward to hearing about the progress of the workgroups

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# Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

July 24, 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](https://www.waportal.org/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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or by calling 360-584-4398.

### Council Members present:

- Maria Batayola, joined at 4:00 pm
- Maria Blancas, departed at 5:30 pm
- Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair), departed at 4:40 pm
- Cristina González, departed at 5:00 pm
- David Mendoza, departed at 4:45 pm
- Esther Min, departed at 5:30 pm
- Running-Grass
- Raeshawna Ware

### Council Members absent:

- Nichole Banegas
- Rosalinda Guillen (leave of absence)
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)
- Todd Mitchell
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- The Honorable Monica Tonasket
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

### Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Jennifer Grove, Department of Commerce
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture

- Olgy Diaz, Department of Natural Resources
- Emilie Litsinger, Puget Sound Partnership
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

#### Council staff:

- Jonathan Chen
- Angie Ellis
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Dana Myers
- Sierra Red Bow
- Sierra Rotakhina

#### Guests and other participants:

- Marie Bravo, Latino Civic Alliance
- Rob Dengel, Department of Ecology
- Martha Hankins, Department of Ecology
- Abby Ruskey, Department of Ecology

#### I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, called the meeting to order. She shared that Council Member Rosalinda Guillen sent a letter to the EJ Council letting members know that she does not intend to reapply for a second term. Raeshawna Ware, Council Member, noted that she was not going to seek reappointment to the EJ Council at the end of her term. She said she will serve until her seat is filled. Christy Hoff, Council Staff, facilitated roll call. At the time of the initial roll call, there were 7 voting members present, not meeting quorum (see table below).

<b>14 Members / 1 Vacancy / 1 Leave of Absence / Current Quorum = 8</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	Absent
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent

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Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Present
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Leave of Absence
Cristina González	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Present
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Absent
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

## II. Approval of Agenda by Council

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, facilitated adoption of the agenda. She noted that even though a quorum of Members was not present, the [Council Bylaws](#) allow them to adopt the agenda as it is an administrative matter.

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

No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

## III. Approval of May 9, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council

The EJ Council skipped this agenda item as they did not have a quorum of Members present.

## IV. Public Comment

David Mendoza, Council Member, opened up the public comment period.

Stacy Valenzuela said that Kenmore is considering clearcutting 50 acres of Saint Edwards State Park to build housing units. They are opposed to the destruction of the natural ecosystem, noting the wildlife that live there and the damage that would be caused. They cited Washington State laws and regulations to protect the habitat. They also outlined past efforts to protect and clean up the area. They requested assistance and support from the EJ Council including information on

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who they could connect with and next steps they could take. They stated that they had requested open public hearings on the project but were ignored. Member Mendoza asked for the name of the State Park and Stacey Valenzuela replied that it is Saint Edwards State Park, adding that Bastyr University is on part of the property.

## V. Briefing: Climate Commitment Act Rulemaking for Improving Air Quality for Overburdened Communities

Member Mendoza, said an important role of the EJ Council is to provide consultation to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and other HEAL Agencies. He said Ecology is developing rules for improving air quality for overburdened communities as a part of their responsibilities under the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). He said this agenda item provides an opportunity to ask questions and discuss if the EJ Council should continue to provide feedback.

Abby Ruskey, Department of Ecology, provided an introduction and Martha Hankins, Policy and Planning Manager, Department of Ecology Air Quality Program provided the content of the [presentation](#). She shared information about the CCA and the rulemaking timeline. She said the goal of rulemaking is stricter standards and reducing emissions of critical pollutants to reach air quality targets. The timeline would have the EJ Council provide review of preliminary and revised drafts in early 2026. Members asked questions and discussed participation in the program's community listening sessions, the source of health data used, and the impacts of federal funding and regulatory cutbacks. They also discussed how they wanted to engage on this topic in the future and agreed that they wanted to request another presentation after the draft rules are out in order to hear how the agency incorporated public comments.

The EJ Council took a break and returned at 4:42 pm.

## Additional Council Member Comments Related to Agenda Item I.

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Upon returning from break, Cristina Gonzalez, Council Member shared some additional comments related to the announcement during the first agenda item about Council Member Rosalinda Guillen's letter. Member Gonzalez said Council Member Rosalinda Guillen's letter of resignation recommended that the Department of Labor and Industries be required to comply with the HEAL Act. The letter also stressed the importance of updating the heat rules at the Department of Labor and Industries, the need for enhanced community engagement for the EJ Council, and the need for funding for Community Assemblies. Member Gonzalez commented on a number of issues, including deportations, family separation, unfair treatment in the workplace, exposures to air pollution, and wildfire smoke. She said communities are afraid to show up and voice their concerns. Member Batayola said that Council Member Guillen always reminded them to focus on engaging with communities who are hardest to reach. Sierra Red Bow, Council staff, said she looks forward to talking more about this with the Emergent Issues Workgroup, adding the need to be more agile and timely in their response.

## VI. Updates and Feedback: Council Project Workgroups

Maria Batayola, Council Member, said that the Council convened three project workgroups, see memo on page 15 of the [meeting materials](#). The workgroups have been meeting to develop workplans. Running-Grass, Council Member, and Jonathan Chen, Council Staff, gave an update on the Community and Tribal Engagement Workgroup and its workplan to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health, see meeting materials (link above) starting on page 21. They explained the need for an MOU and why the Community and Tribal Engagement Workgroup was taking this task on.

Member Running-Grass and Emilie Litzinger, Ex Officio Liaison for the Puget Sound Partnership, updated the Council on the work of the Environmental Justice Assessment (EJA) Guidance Workgroup, see meeting materials (link above) starting on page 27. He said their current focus is on developing guidance for the community engagement requirement of EJAs and he shared a [presentation](#).

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Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, shared an update on the CCA Budget Recommendation Workgroup and the strategic direction the workgroup is providing to focus supplemental budget recommendations on technical corrections as well as sharing some values and principles to uphold with budget writers. See meeting materials (link above), starting on page 35.

Members then signed up to serve on the next phase of each workgroup and staff will follow up with Members who are not at the meeting.

## VII. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Council Ethics Procedure and Form

Member Running-Grass referred Members to the draft procedure, see pages 38-58 of the [meeting materials](#). He said the Governance Committee developed the procedure in order to operationalize the Ethics requirements in the bylaws. Sierra Rotakhina reviewed the procedure, examples of conflicts of interest, and the attestation form.

She said the goal is to provide a briefing on the procedure at this meeting for possible adoption at the next meeting. Member Batayola said they use the social determinants to address health disparities and is wondering if the form needs to be edited to specify that affiliations related to work on social determinants should also be noted. Member Ware asked if the document will be public and Sierra said the attestation forms will be posted on the Council's website (as described in the Council's Bylaws).

## VIII. EJ Council Community Connection

Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, said the purpose is to learn from community-based organizations about environmental justice issues, concerns, and victories in their communities. She said they were scheduled to learn from two organizations, but they will need to reschedule one of the presentations.

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Marie Bravo, Resource Development and Administrative Director, Latino Civic Alliance, said they had a partnership to support agricultural workers addressing climate related challenges affecting worker safety and wellbeing. She shared a presentation with information about climate risks to agricultural workers. The Latino Civic Alliance provides education, workshops, legal advocacy, and resources. They also distributed climate-related supplies. Marie and Council Members discussed how the EJ Council can cultivate the necessary trust with communities during this difficult time. Sierra Rotakhina thanked Marie, adding how it was important to see what they were able to do with the Worker Safety and Health Grant funding. She said this is important for the EJ Council to hear so they can amplify that with Legislators when budget writers are making decisions about which programs to fund and which to cut.

## IX. Public Comment

Member Batayola, opened up the second public comment period.

Jean Mendoza said that what undocumented workers are currently experiencing is a human rights abuse. She is disappointed that more people do not speak up and say it is wrong. She provided comments about the Department of Ecology's rulemaking. She asked Members to think about the section that requires the agency to identify significant emitters in each community and to work with local air authorities. She said there is an air pollution control authority in Yakima that actively defends the dairy industry. She said there should be a section in the rules that provides consequences for air authorities that do not cooperate with the Department of Ecology, and ideally a citizen enforcement provision.

## X. Appreciation and Adjournment

Member Batayola adjourned the meeting.

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# **Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council Gathering**

September 25, 2025

## **Swinomish Casino & Lodge**

This gathering was held in-person and there were no formal Council actions taken. This meeting did not have a virtual option, and the meeting was not recorded. Most of this in-person gathering was dedicated to roundtable discussions. Council staff are working on summaries of those roundtable discussions and are centering consent from roundtable participants for what is captured in those summaries. Once the roundtable summaries are completed, they will be posted on the Council's website. The following notes focus on capturing attendance and public comments provided during the formal public comment period.

### **Council Members present:**

- Maria Batayola
- Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)
- David Mendoza
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- Running-Grass

### **Council Members absent:**

- Nichole Banegas
- Maria Blancas
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)
- Cristina González
- Esther Min
- Todd Mitchell
- Raeshawna Ware
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

### **Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:**

- Jennifer Grove, Department of Commerce
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture

- Jerry Rivero, Department of Natural Resources
- Emilie Litsinger, Puget Sound Partnership
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

#### Council staff:

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

### I. Welcoming from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

### II. Opening of Public Meeting and Meaningful Introductions

Tatiana Brown, EJ Council Co-Chair and Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, facilitated welcomes among EJ Council Members and tribal and community members in attendance.

### III. Context for Afternoon Roundtables

Council Members and staff and Department of Ecology staff (for Group #2) provided brief overviews of the topics and goals for the afternoon roundtables so that attendees could decide which roundtable group(s) to join. The information provided on each group is outlined in the [presentation slides](#):

- Group #1: Council's Process for Emerging and Urgent Issues (Brainstorming) (see slides 5-6)
- Group #2: Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed Industries (EITE) and the local impacts of oil refineries and industrial gas plants (Briefing and Preliminary Input) (see the Department of Ecology's slides [here](#))

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- Group #3: Local Environmental Justice Issues and Solutions (Listening Session) (see slides 9-10)
- Group #4: Uplifting Immigrants and Refugees (Brainstorming) (see slides 11-12)
- Group #5: Council's 2027-2029 Budget Recommendation Process (Co-Creating) (see slides 13-15)

#### IV. Public Comment

David Mendoza, Council Member, opened up the public comment period.

Julian Medina, Vamos Outdoors Project, which is a program for Latino youth in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. It is an outdoor community-building program for youth and families at no cost. This work sits at the intersection of environmental justice and community-building, creating belonging in outdoor spaces. There are many outcomes to programming, including connection and time spent in nature (which is shown to support healthy communities). Communities need basic needs met to engage in environmental justice. We need to bridge the gap between people and policy. We used funding from Commerce to facilitate environmental workshops to engage in housing, transportation and community design. While the state funding ended, the energy and commitment has not. Short timelines for funding and long-term community vision do not match. We have a responsibility to honor the trust that families place in us by ensuring their efforts to engage are not left hanging. We need to uphold the HEAL Act. Communities have the knowledge.

Morgan Brown, provided thanks to the Swinomish people and the land. They said they previously worked as the Coordinator for the Protect Mother Earth Community Engagement Group of the Swinomish Tribe and as an Indigenous science teacher in La Conner Public High School. The work that we're doing can't be of face value. It takes love to do this work and to break down the barriers. They encountered barriers working in the public school system advocating for students to have traditional ways to be on the land and be in relationship. They think about what it is like

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to have an Indigenous world view and how that is important. It is important to look at who is at the table when they're making decisions and it is rooted in the land that we're on and that we try to make ourselves as available as we can for that guidance. This is not a face value space. There are leaders in this room that are in important roles in the State and there is also the heart. That gives hope. There is so much wisdom if we can create the platforms to be welcoming of those people. They love that at the center of the room, there is a space for children and that speaks to the underlying intention. We need to scoop in all of our children, not just some of them or certain groups. They all need to be educated in the classroom, and we need to help them to be back on the land. It is about relationships. If there is not a ground, then our children will not feel that in their heart. Always remember the children in the work. Acknowledge that Swinomish is the first Tribe to create a climate action adaptation plan. Also, a teaching from an elder mentor is the teaching of a value to lift each other up. It took everyone to lift the sky. It takes us all. They said they see that happening here. One or two years ago there was a spill that happened in front of the casino. Basically too many cars of the train were coming through and it was illegal and not a part of the agreement with the Tribe to have that many train cars linked up, and it led to the spill that affected the Tribe and we need to show up when that happens and spread information. There is a lot of potential for that here. We need each other in emergencies. Encourage people to look into the history of the March Point oil refinery. Orient yourself in the space. Remember our children.

Isaac Cavazos, community member, said they are from a migrant farmworker family with deep roots in Skagit County from Texas. They follow the harvest with their hands, backs, and lives. They pick strawberries, tulips, whatever. Without shade and less protection from chemicals. They didn't know what they were exposed to and are still feeling the effects and nothing has changed. Pesticides are still used, and farmworkers are not told the short-term and long-term effects. There are families living close to treated land. There are health effects and stories that don't make the news. Runoff leaches into water systems, streams, irrigation canals and drinking water

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of communities including farmworker families. Harm is spread out to communities that didn't consent. Stronger regulations are needed. Mandatory disclosure of all effects. Regular water testing and protection in areas of pesticide runoff are needed, as are investments. We are people with deep roots. This is a matter of environmental justice and public health. Farmworkers are not disposable. Their lives and safety must be protected.

Xitlali Herrera, community member, said there is a movement to address CAFOs in Washington State. They've met with several groups as a community liaison. They want to see this topic elevated as an environmental justice issue. Research looks at EJ implications of these facilities. It's done in other states but not analyzed with an EJ lens in this state. There is a significant amount of unpermitted CAFO facilities in communities with limited English proficiency and low-income households and communities of color. In the Lower Yakima Valley and Royal City areas. Whatcom County has the second highest density of CAFOs. The overlap is further exacerbating pollution in these communities. There is no formal CAFO map accessible to the public. They have a fact sheet for CAFOs. Interested in GIS and looking at special components of EJ.

Rosalinda Guillen, C2C, said they grew up in Skagit County. Their hometown is LaConner. Somehow, we have to get the Department of Labor and Industries to opt into the HEAL Act. The agriculture industry is in rural Washington State mostly. The impact on the workers and the fact that farmworkers are majority people of color. Also, construction workers are impacted by climate change. The Department of Labor and Industries is the agency charged with the health and safety of workers. They have to respond to the climate crisis to protect the workers. For Labor and Industries to not opt into HEAL, leaves a gap of catching up to climate policies that are being implemented to protect everyone. Bringing this to the EJ Council and the new Governor to get Labor and Industries to opt into the HEAL Act. Data are necessary to look at the impacts of climate. Having Labor and Industries look at how they are keeping their data on worker protections, safety, and impacts of heat domes and climate impacts is important. Not having

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these data has impacted the unions and advocates ability to implement policies and rules because the data is not there. Wants to urge the Council to continue to do that.

Tatiana Brown, Council Co-Chair, and Maria Batayola, Council Member, summarized what they heard in the testimony.

## V. Two Rounds of Open Roundtable Discussions

Environmental Justice Council staff are finalizing the summaries of the roundtable discussions and these will be posted on the Council's website when they are ready.

## VI. Closing Remarks – Open to Everyone

Council Member Batayola thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting.

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# Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

October 10, 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](https://www.waportal.org/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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or by calling 360-584-4398.

### Council Members present:

- Maria Batayola
- Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)
- Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair), joined late
- Faaluaina Pritchard, joined late
- Cristina González Torres
- David Mendoza, joined late
- Running-Grass
- Raeshawna Ware

### Council Members absent:

- Nicole Banegas
- Maria Blancas
- Esther Min
- Todd Mitchell
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

### Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Jennifer Grove, Department of Commerce
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Emilie Litsinger, Puget Sound Partnership
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation

- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology
- Jerry Rivero, Department of Natural Resources

#### Council staff:

- Jonathan Chen
- Angie Ellis
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Dana Myers
- Sierra Rotakhina

#### Guests and other participants:

- Jasmine Alik, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
- Judith Barba Perez, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
- Prina Patel, Office of the Attorney General
- Adrian Young, Department of Ecology
- Andy Hayes, Department of Ecology
- Isabel Hanify, Department of Ecology
- Jihan Grettenberger, Department of Ecology

#### I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Tatiana Brown, Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. She shared that Council Member Monica Tonasket has resigned from the Council. She expressed gratitude to the Swinomish Tribe for hosting the Council at its two-day gathering last month. Prina Patel, the Assistant Attorney General for the EJ Council, introduced herself. Christy Hoff, Council Staff, facilitated roll call. At the time of the initial roll call, there were five voting members present, not meeting quorum (see table below).

<b>13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Present
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent

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Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Absent
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	Present
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

## II. Approval of Agenda by Council

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

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

No objections noted. **The Motion passed.**

## III. Approval of May 9, July 24, and September 25, 2025 Meeting Notes by Council

The Council did not consider action on this item as it did not have a quorum of members present.

## IV. Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this meeting.

NOTE: The Council altered the agenda by moving agenda item VIII up.

## VIII. Discussion: Draft 2026 Council Legislative Policy Statement

Co-Chair Brown said the goal of this agenda item is to review, discuss, and edit as needed a draft 2026 Legislative Policy Statement to document the Council's position on policy issues in order to guide the Council's work during session. She said that today's agenda item is for the initial

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briefing, and the Council will consider adoption at its December meeting. Christy Hoff reviewed the draft statement (starting on page 52 of the [meeting packet](#)). Members had some detailed discussions on several of the proposed policy positions.

## V. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Council Ethics Procedure and Form

Running-Grass, Council Member, said the ethics procedure (starting on page 29 of the [meeting packet](#)) would operationalize Article V of the Council's Bylaws. The full Council received an initial briefing at the July meeting. Members noted that they had been working on this for a while, commented on the importance of the attestation and disclosure form and having clarity on how Members are showing up in different spaces, and the helpfulness of the conflict of interest examples. Member Running-Grass said this is quite a moment for the Council to say that its house is in order and they are being transparent.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the Ethics Procedure, Conflict of Interest Examples, and Ethics Attestation and Disclosure Form as submitted on October 10, 2025.

**Motion: Second:** Member Batayola/Co-Chair Brown

**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>13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent

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Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	F
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	A
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

## VI. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Council 2026 Supplemental Budget Values and Principles

Maria Batayola, Council Member, said the goal of this agenda item is to review, discuss, and consider adoption of a set of Values and Principles (starting on page 35 of the [meeting packet](#)) for the Governor and Legislature to consider as they write the 2026 supplemental budget. Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, reviewed the document with the Council. Member Batayola facilitated discussion of each of the proposed values/principles. Members identified three values/principles that they wanted to send back to the Budget Workgroup for further discussion and adopted the rest with changes discussed at the meeting.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the “Budget Values and Principles for the Governor and Legislature to Inform 2026 State Budget Development” as submitted on October 10, 2025, with any changes agreed to by the full Council, and will have further discussion with the budget workgroup for the following three values: (1) Reducing Gaps in Access to Services, (2) Sustaining Agents of Change, and (3) Sustaining Equity Capacity. The Council directs staff to submit the values and principles to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2026 supplemental budget. The Council will follow its procedure for “Advocating for the Council’s Budget Recommendations” adopted by the full Council on November 21, 2024 when advocating for these budget values and principles.

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**Motion/Second:** Member Mendoza/Member Ware

**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>13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	A
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

## VII. Discussion and Possible Action: Emissions-Intensive, Trade-Exposed Industries (EITEs)

Jonathan Chen, Council Staff, referred Council Members to the materials starting on page 44 of the [meeting packet](#). He reviewed the community recommendations that were drafted at the EJ Council's gathering at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge in Anacortes last month. He said the goal

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of this agenda item was to consider adoption of a recommendation for the Department of Ecology to include the community recommendations in their Legislative report.

Co-Chair Brown asked for clarification on the timeline. Adrian Young, staff with the Department of Ecology, said the report is not due until December 2026; however, there is an expectation in the Climate Commitment Act that the Legislature needs to make a decision about EITEs in 2027, so the agency is hoping to submit this report earlier. Co-Chair Brown said she wants to push on shared responsibility and reduction of no cost allowances for the EITEs. David Mendoza, Council Member, asked for clarity on whether the Council is being asked to vote to endorse the community recommendations or just to include them in the Department of Ecology's report. Members discussed whether a vote to include the community recommendations in the report meant that the EJ Council was endorsing them. They did not arrive at a conclusion on this.

**Motion:** The Council recommends Ecology include the community recommendations from the September 25, 2025 Environmental Justice Council Gathering EITEs Roundtable Discussions in their Legislative report as submitted on October 10, 2025. The Council directs staff to submit these to Ecology to inform their development of recommendations for EITEs to the Legislature.

**Motion/Second:** Co-Chair Brown/Member Mendoza

**Motion Failed**

- 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>13 Members / 3 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 7</b>		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	F
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	C

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Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	B
Cristina González Torres	Community Representative	C
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	C
Tatiana Brown (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	C
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola	Community Representative	C
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Vacant	Community Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant
Vacant	Tribal Representative	Vacant

## IX. Community Connect: Presentation and Conversation with Health Disparities Council Staff

Cristina González Torres, Council Member, introduced Judith Barba Perez and Jasmine Alik, staff to the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities. They provided an overview of the Health Disparities Council (HDC) and said they have a vacancy for a community member position. They said they hope the two Councils can collaborate more in the future. The HDC voted to establish a planning advisory committee to create a statewide vision for health and wellbeing. Co-Chair Brown said she looks forward to learning more and it was great to collaborate on the meeting in Anacortes. Millie Piazza, Ex Officio from the Department of Ecology, expressed her appreciation for the HDC. She said the HDC was a fierce advocate for making environmental justice part of the state’s accountability. Jerry Rivero, Ex Officio from the Department of Natural Resources, said he appreciates the collaboration and knows the HDC is a small and mighty team. Member Running-Grass suggested that as a next step, we have a short meeting with the two Councils to identify some ways we can concretely collaborate in the coming year.

## X. Appreciation and Adjournment

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The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson, Council Co-Chair, said he hoped they could find a good replacement for the Tribal Representative seat vacated by former Council Member, the Honorable Monica Tonasket. He said they would miss her on the Council as she has been such a great advocate for Tribes and communities. Co-Chair Brown said there are two vacancies for Tribal Representatives on the Council. She said she knows there is a backlog on appointments, but they are still seeking applications. She thanked everyone for their work on getting the action items passed. She said there will be more to come on the EITEs. Co-Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** December 4, 2025

**To:** Environmental Justice Council Members

**From:** Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager

**Subject:** Addressing the Loss of Federal Environmental and Cultural Resource Protections and the Potential Risk to Tribal and Community Data

## Background and Summary

There have been many changes at the federal level that are impacting environmental and cultural resource protections and/or pose potential risks to tribal and community data. For example, new and rescinded Presidential Executive Orders on Environmental Justice, Presidential Executive Orders on Artificial Intelligence, changes to National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) regulations and implementing procedures, proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act Regulations, removal of data and reports from federal websites, and reductions in force and interruptions to federal communications and programs have impacts on environmental protections and cultural resource protections in Washington. Additionally, state to federal data sharing has exposed risks to safety, privacy, consent, Tribal data sovereignty, and data ownership for Tribes and communities.

Dr. Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer/Executive Director for the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, is joining the Council today to share more information and to answer questions. Council Members will then have an opportunity to discuss if the Council wants to take any action on this topic.

## Council Staff Recommended Actions

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The Council will have time to discuss this topic and determine if they want to take action today or in the future.

### **Staff Contact**

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, [sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov), 360-584-4398

# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** December 4, 2025

**To:** Environmental Justice Council Members

**From:** Christy Hoff, Council Staff

**Subject:** 2026 Legislative Session Policy Statement

## Background and Summary

The Environmental Justice Council has made it a practice to adopt a Legislative Policy Statement prior to the start of each legislative session. The Legislative Policy Statement documents official Council positions on issues, allowing it to take a position on bills in a timely fashion during session.

Over the past 4 months, Council Members have had an opportunity to provide input into the statement. The Council received a briefing and had a discussion on the draft statement at the October 10, 2025 Council meeting. At today's meeting, the Council will have an opportunity to review, further discuss, and consider adoption of the draft 2026 Legislative Session Policy Statement.

## Council Staff Recommended Actions

After review and discussion, the Council may consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

**Proposed Motion:** The Council adopts the 2026 Legislative Policy Statement as presented on December 4, 2025 with any changes agreed to by the full Council.

## Staff Contact

Christy Hoff, Policy Advisor, [christy.hoff@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:christy.hoff@ejc.wa.gov), 360-688-4699.

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# Environmental Justice Council

## 2026 Legislative Session Policy Statement

DRAFT – for discussion at the EJ Council meeting on 12/04/2025

### 1. Purpose and Background

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this policy statement is to document the Environmental Justice Council's (Council) policy positions ahead of the 2026 Legislative session. This document will guide Council Members and staff in determining whether the Council may want to take a position on legislation this session.

#### Background:

The Healthy Environmental for All (HEAL) Act, [RCW 70A.02.110](#), and the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), [RCW 70A.65.040](#), give the Council statutory authority and direction to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in several areas:

- The Council may, in consultation with the HEAL Interagency Work Group, make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve agency compliance with the HEAL Act;
- The Council may make recommendations for amendments to the HEAL Act, proposed laws, or other existing laws to promote environmental justice;
- The Council may recommend funding strategies and allocations to build capacity in vulnerable populations and overburdened communities to address environmental injustices;

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- The Council must provide recommendations to the Legislature, agencies, and the Governor on the development and implementation of the cap and invest program established in the CCA (RCW 70A.65.060 through 70A.65.210); and
- The Council must provide recommendations to the Legislature, agencies, and the Governor on the programs funded by the CCA accounts.

## 2. Policy Positions

**2.1** The Council opposes policies that would alter the Council’s membership, duties, and/or authority in ways that are counter to the intent of the HEAL Act or would significantly disrupt or delay the Council’s work.

- Note: The Council’s positions on alignment with the HEAL Act regarding topics like community engagement and environmental justice assessments can be extrapolated from official Council letters or position statements.

**2.2** The Council supports policies that would direct the Department of Labor and Industries, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to comply with the HEAL Act, Chapter 70A.02 RCW.

**2.3** The Council requests that it (the Council) only be added to legislation or budget proposals when the inclusion is directly related to the HEAL Act or CCA and when doing so aligns with the Council’s capacity, authority, and structure as an advisory body of volunteer community members. The Council believes that legislative and budgetary proposals should center free, prior, and informed consent from Federally Recognized Tribes; community engagement; co-

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governance; and co-design. For example, the Council opposes being included in any legislation or budgetary proposals when the sole reason for doing so would be for the Council to serve as a proxy for meaningful Tribal Government Consultation and community engagement.

**2.4** The Council has adopted a [statement](#) uplifting Tribal Sovereignty; Self Determination; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. The Council supports policies that are supported by Tribes that affirm sovereignty and self-determination and that would codify the practice of free, prior, and informed consent into state law.

**2.5** The Council supports policies that would ensure Tribes have opportunities if desired for diverse Tribal representation, including but not limited to at least one representative from both Eastern and Western Washington, and representatives of overburdened communities in the membership of the Interagency Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council created by [chapter 43.394 RCW](#).

**2.6** The Council supports policies that would ensure Tribes have opportunities if desired for diverse Tribal representation, including but not limited to at least one representative from both Eastern and Western Washington to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council created by [chapter 80.50 RCW](#).

**2.7** The Council supports HB 1262/SB 5228, Updating the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities. The Health Disparities Council was established in 2006 as an advisory body charged with making recommendations to eliminate health disparities. During the 2025 legislative session, the Health Disparities Council's request

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legislation was introduced (HB 1262/SB 5228) to modernize its authorizing statute in alignment with community priorities. The EJ Council supports the Health Disparities Council's efforts to update its statute, and it will look to and follow the Health Disparities Council's positions on the legislation moving forward.

**2.8** The Council supports policies supported by Tribes and communities that aim to address the recent loss of federal environmental, health, and cultural resource protections, and potential risks to Tribal and community data. This includes, but is not limited to, changes to Presidential Executive Orders on Environmental Justice; changes to National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) regulations and implementing procedures; and state to federal data exchanges, breaches, and/or misuse placing Tribes' and communities' wellbeing and knowledge at risk.

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# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** December 4, 2025

**To:** Environmental Justice Council Members

**From:** Sierra Rotakhina, Environmental Justice Council Manager

**Subject:** Budget Values and Principles

## Background and Summary

The Environmental Justice Council has authority under RCW 70A.65.040 to adopt budget recommendations for how Climate Commitment Act revenue should be spent. During the upcoming 2026 legislative session, the Legislature will adopt a supplemental budget. Due to the ongoing state budget shortfall, the EJ Council has opted to adopt and submit a set of values and principles that the Governor and Legislature could consider when developing the supplemental budget in lieu of recommendations for new programs to fund. At its October 10 meeting, the Council adopted a number of values and principles and asked the Council's Budget Recommendation Workgroup to continue working on three values/principles and then bring them back to the Council for discussion and possible adoption.

During today's meeting, the EJ Council will have an opportunity to review, discuss, and consider adoption of the three additional Budget Values and Principles.

## Council Staff Recommended Actions

After review and discussion, the Council may wish to consider adoption of the Budget Values and Principles.

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**Proposed Motion:** The Council adopts the "Additional Budget Values and Principles for the Governor and Legislature to Inform 2026 State Budget Development" as submitted on December 4, 2025, with any changes agreed to by the full Council.

The Council directs staff to submit the values and principles to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2026 supplemental budget.

The Council will follow its procedure for "Advocating for the Council's Budget Recommendations" adopted by the full Council on November 21, 2024 when advocating for these budget values and principles.

### **Staff Contact**

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, [sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov), 360-584-4398



# Environmental Justice Council

## Additional Budget Values and Principles for the Governor and Legislature to Inform 2026 State Budget Development

Draft for discussion at the December 4, 2025 EJ Council meeting – this document has not been approved by the EJ Council

- **Reducing Gaps in Access to Services:** Identify and prioritize services that have been lost or face instability in federal funding (emergency response, SNAP<sup>1</sup> and WIC<sup>2</sup> funding for example) and state funding (wildland fire fighting for example), especially services that directly affect Tribes, environmental protection, and community health. Without state intervention, these funding gaps could further harm, eliminate essential services, and widen inequities.
- **Sustaining Commitment for HEAL Act Implementation:** The HEAL Act demonstrates Washington State’s commitment to environmental justice.<sup>3</sup> The HEAL Act is implemented through agency HEAL programs, the Environmental Justice Council, the HEAL Interagency Workgroup, the Environmental Health Disparities Map, and the HEAL Tribal and Community Capacity Grants. In order to realize the transformational change that the HEAL Act promises, funding for HEAL implementation must be **sustainable**, must allow

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<sup>1</sup> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

<sup>2</sup> Women, Infants, and Children [WIC] Nutrition Program

<sup>3</sup> Per RCW [70A.02.010](#): "Environmental justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm."

for **dedicated staffing** that is representative of Tribes and communities, and must provide **appropriate funding** levels that match each agency's level of HEAL obligations.

- Funding for all aspects of HEAL implementation should receive sustainable, reliable funding. This means all HEAL implementation funding must be ongoing.
  - Sustainable levels of funding that agencies can rely on allow for the hiring and retention of dedicated staff with expertise and lived experience in environmental justice. The retention of frontline workers is critical as they are often addressing longstanding concerns raised by Tribes and communities. In addition, these staff need sustainable levels of funding for meaningful engagement with Tribes and communities, including for travel, community compensation, training, and other engagement needs.
  - All HEAL agencies should have the resources to meet their HEAL obligations under [chapter 70A.02 RCW](#), including conducting Environmental Justice Assessments of significant agency actions (by practitioners who reflect the community), consulting with Tribes,<sup>4</sup> and ensuring meaningful community engagement and public participation into agency decision-making. This means that agencies with greater levels of HEAL responsibilities will require greater levels of funding.
- **Prioritizing Equity in Budget Reductions:** Any additional budget reductions in the supplemental budgets should address or reduce both interruptions to essential public services and harms to Tribes and frontline communities (referred to as “overburdened communities”<sup>5</sup> in the HEAL Act). When directing agencies to plan for budget reductions, the Governor should direct agencies to assess and describe: 1) how their reduction proposals will interrupt essential public services, 2) how the proposed reductions would

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<sup>4</sup> See [RCW 70A.02.100](#), [RCW 70A.65.305](#), [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Centennial Accord](#), the [Millennium Agreement](#), and [EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-10](#) (A New Foundation for Washington State's Governmental Relations with Sovereign Tribal Nations).

<sup>5</sup> Many Tribes and communities have shared that "overburdened community" is a deficit framing that their communities do not identify with.

impact Tribes and communities, 3) how the agency plans to address or reduce any adverse impacts, and 4) how the agency has engaged with Tribes and communities to inform their proposed reductions and to understand the impacts. The Governor and Legislature should consider and heavily weigh and communicate these impacts outlined by agencies along with input from Tribes and communities when making budget decisions. When proposing budget reductions, agencies, the Governor, and Legislature should:

- **Prioritize Work Affected by Federal Funding Losses:** Agencies that have been impacted greatly by federal funding cuts are less able to absorb across the board state funding cuts. As an example, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is a very small agency that was deeply impacted by federal funding cuts—creating cumulative impacts on their work and on Tribes and communities and placing cultural resources at risk.
- **Require Agency Impact Assessments on Tribes and Frontline Communities:** When agencies develop budget reduction proposals, they should assess how reductions would affect Tribes, frontline communities, and populations most at risk. Agencies should prioritize retaining funding for programs that directly support these groups and demonstrate harm-reduction strategies where impacts cannot be avoided. This approach aligns with the intent of the HEAL Act, CCA, and the state’s commitments to environmental justice and Government-to-Government relationships.
- **Uphold tribal sovereignty, Government-to-Government Consultation, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).** Agencies and the Governor have Government-to-Government obligations to Tribes that must be centered throughout the budget development process.<sup>6</sup> These commitments require sustainable levels of funding.

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<sup>6</sup> See [RCW 70A.02.100](#), [RCW 70A.65.305](#), [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#), the [Centennial Accord](#), the [Millennium Agreement](#), and [EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-10](#) (A New Foundation for Washington State’s Governmental Relations with Sovereign Tribal Nations).

- **Protect Core Equity and Environmental Justice Programs from Cuts:** Ensure that equity, environmental justice, and community investment programs are not targeted for early or disproportionate reductions based on their recent funding history. Prioritizing cuts to recently funded programs unintentionally undermines progress in areas the state has only recently begun to address, such as equity, climate justice, and tribal engagement. Protecting these investments maintains momentum toward long-term systemic change.

# Environmental Justice Council

## Budget Values and Principles for the Governor and Legislature to Inform 2026 State Budget Development

Adopted by the Environmental Justice Council on October 10, 2026

- **Investing in Tribes and Communities:** While the state budget must reflect the legal mandates under [RCW 70A.65.230](#) and provide transparency in how it does so, to address health disparities, the state should strive to exceed the minimum requirements and set a goal of investing 45% of Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding in ways that benefit overburdened communities<sup>1</sup> and 20% toward programs supported by Tribes. Additionally, the Council is concerned that the state did not meet its legal obligation in the 2023-2025 biennial budgets to ensure a minimum of 10% of CCA investments go toward projects supported by a Tribal resolution (as reported by the [Office of Financial Management](#) and the [Department of Ecology](#)). [Analyses of draft versions](#) of the 2025-2027 budgets also found that this biennium's budget may fall short of the 10% requirement.
- **Transportation Focused on Community Connectivity and Health Equity:** CCA investments are supporting multimodal transportation opportunities. These investments are critical to connecting resources, services, and opportunities in the hope of producing environmental justice benefits and improving social determinants of health for communities. Transportation is a critical physical connector for communities—therefore Tribes, overburdened communities, and vulnerable populations should be meaningfully engaged in planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- **No Added Harm:** Decision-makers should consider potential unintended environmental consequences when funding programs through the CCA or any other accounts. Unintended consequences can be identified with information from Tribes, Tribal organizations, community organizations, communities, equity and environmental justice questions in agency decision-packages, Tribal and community engagement efforts, and the Environmental Health Disparities Map.
- **Leveraging Resources:** Given the budget shortfall, to leverage CCA funding, expenditures should fund programs, activities, and projects that maximize benefits by ensuring funded work meets multiple goals outlined in the CCA or needs identified by communities and

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<sup>1</sup> Tribes also meet the definition of “overburdened communities” in the CCA (RCW 70A.65.010).

Tribal Nations. As an example, the HEAL Tribal and Community capacity grants funded through the Department of Health provided direct and meaningful benefits to Tribes and communities (one goal of the CCA) **AND** funded projects to meet **additional** CCA goals, such as reducing environmental health disparities or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For example, one project piloted approaches to creating life-saving heat refuge during extreme heat events while another project raised awareness about regional alternatives to replace fossil fuel-based chemical fertilizers.

- **HEAL & CCA Allocation Clarity:** For transparency and accountability purposes, the Governor and Legislature should clearly specify the percentage (full or partial) meant for overburdened communities and Tribes when directing CCA funding.
- **Indigenous Knowledge, Western Science and Technical Resources:** Indigenous knowledge, western science, and technical resources build Tribal and community capacity to inform their health, environmental and climate advocacy, harm prevention and mitigation design, and grant writing. These resources are critical to meet the goals of the HEAL Act and the CCA.

# Environmental Justice Council

**Date:** December 4, 2025

**To:** Environmental Justice Council Members

**From:** Sierra Rotakhina, Environmental Justice Council Manager

**Subject:** Proposed 2026 Council Meeting Schedule

## Background and Summary

[RCW 70A.02.110](#) specifies that meetings of the Environmental Justice Council (Council) are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act ([chapter 42.30 RCW](#)). [RCW 42.30.075](#) requires the Council to file a schedule of regular meetings with the Code Revisor to be published in the Washington State Register. Once the Council has adopted a 2026 meeting schedule, staff will file the schedule with the Code Revisor. The Council can make changes to the meeting schedule, but the changes must be published in the State Register for distribution at least twenty days prior to the rescheduled meeting date. The Council can also call special meetings under [RCW 42.30.080](#) as long as the public is notified at least 24 hours before the meeting.

This year the Council went through a process of re-imagining how it would approach its work in 2025 and 2026. As the Council is now part-way through implementing those changes, the Executive Committee is recommending that instead of adopting a full 2026 meeting schedule at today's meeting, the Council instead adopt a January 2026 meeting date. The Council would then use the time at the January meeting to: 1) discuss how the new way of approaching the work is going and what changes may be needed, 2) decide on what meeting cadence, schedule, and approach meets the needs of the work in 2026, and 3) adopt the 2026 Council meeting schedule at that meeting.

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Additionally, the Council usually holds a date and time in February to meet only if needed for issues that may arise during Legislative session that require the Council to meet and take action quickly. Staff are recommending that in addition to adopting a January 2026 meeting date at today's meeting, the Council also adopt a date to hold for a February meeting.

A proposed January 2026 Council meeting date and a proposed date to meet if needed in February is on [page 56](#).

### **Council Staff Recommended Actions**

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

The Council adopts the proposed 2026 January and February Council meeting dates with any changes agreed upon by the full Council at the December 4, 2025 meeting.

### **Staff Contact**

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Manager, [sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:sierra.rotakhina@ejc.wa.gov), 360-584-4398



# Environmental Justice Council

## Draft 2026 Meeting Schedule

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), the following is the schedule of regular meetings for the Washington State Environmental Justice Council (Council) for 2026. The Council's meetings are open to the public. Community access to the meetings and language justice are priorities for the Council. Members of the public can contact staff (see below) to request language interpreters at meetings, translated meeting materials, or accommodations to improve the accessibility of Council meetings and materials.

Agendas for the meetings listed below are made available in advance via listserv and the Council's website (see below). Every attempt is made to ensure that the agenda is up-to-date. However, the Council reserves the right to change or amend agendas at the meeting. Meeting links, call-in, information and locations (as applicable) are posted here:

<https://waportal.org/partners/home/environmental-justice-council/environmental-justice-council-meetings>

Meeting Date	Location
Thursday January 29, 2026 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Virtual Only
Thursday February 12, 2026 3:30pm-6:30pm Hold to meet only if needed for legislative purposes	
Additional 2026 Council meeting dates to be determined.	

Time and locations subject to change as needed. See [Environmental Justice Council | WaPortal.org](#) for the most current information. Contact Council staff at [envjustice@ejc.wa.gov](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or 360-584-4398.

Last updated: December 4, 2025