ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

November 8, 2023
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Meeting Agenda

This public meeting will be conducted in person at the Oregon State Library Room 103. Written testimony can be submitted in advance, to van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov. Written comments received will be distributed to the Council.

Teleconference: 833 548 0276 (US Toll Free)
Conference ID: 549 576 5696
Join via URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/pac/join/5495765696

The Council makes every attempt to hold strictly to the sequence of the distributed agenda. Times and topics may change up to the last minute. This agenda is available on the Environmental Justice Council website: Governor of Oregon : Environmental Justice Council : Policies : State of Oregon.

9:30 a.m.	**Item 1:**	**Call to Order** – Chair Joel Iboa
9:40 a.m.	**Item 2:**	**Chair Report** – Chair Joel Iboa (Oral Report)
		Briefing: The Board will not be asked to consider an action on this item
10:10 a.m.	**Item 3:**	**Intent Options Deliberation –** Environmental Justice Council
		Council Action: The Council will be asked to take an action on this item
12:00 p.m.	**Item 4:**	**Lunch**
12:30 p.m.	**Item 5:**	**Partnerships** – Staff
		Briefing: The Council will be asked to take an action on this item
1:10 p.m.	**Item 6:**	**Public Comment**
1:30 p.m.	**Item 7:**	**Council Adjourn**

PLEASE NOTE

AGENDA
The public portion of the Council meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and proceed chronologically through the agenda. Times listed on the agenda are approximate. At the discretion of the chair, the time and order of agenda items—including addition of intermittent breaks—may change to maintain meeting flow. This meeting will be recorded by audio, and the recording will be posted on the Environmental Justice Council website shortly after the meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY
Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the evening prior to the meeting by emailing van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov and indicate your comments as EJC Testimony with the meeting date on the subject line. Other testimony will be received during the public comment portion of the meeting.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITIES
Please contact us at least three business days prior to the meeting to let us know if you need reasonable accommodation. Contact the Environmental Justice Coordinator Hoang-Van Nguyen at van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov to make your request.

Chair Report

To: Chair and members of the Environmental Justice Council

From: Joel Iboa, Chair of Environmental Justice Council

Date: November 2, 2023

Regarding: Agenda Item 2 – Chair Report

The Council will not take action on this agenda item.

Proposed Board Action: None

Staff Report and Memorandum

To: Chair and members of the Environmental Justice Council

From: Hoang-Van Nguyen, EJC Coordinator, and EJ Mapping Tool Staff

Date: October 12, 2023

Regarding: Agenda Item 3 – Intent Options Deliberation

The Council will not take action on this agenda item.

> ***Proposed Board Action: None***

The Council will have the opportunity to engage in a panel discussion with state staff during their deliberations. Panel will include Hoang-Van Nguyen, Eric Main, Matthew Davis, Jen Seamans, Kim Tham, Myrica McCune, Janine Salwasser, and Ethan Sharygin. Jen Seamans, Kim Tham, Myrica McCune, and Janine Salwasser will be joining via teleconference.

Mapping Tool Intent & Use Cases

The environmental justice (EJ) mapping tool will serve as an educational and informational resource to gather, share, and visualize environmental, human health, climate change, and socioeconomic data to bolster environmental justice throughout Oregon. The tool could be used to support various environmental justice-related efforts across stakeholder groups. It is up to the Environmental Justice Council to prioritize potential intents, or use cases, to guide the development and ultimate technical capabilities of the EJ mapping tool.

The following intent options are based on language from HB 4077 (Section 14), which outlines potential use cases for state agencies. Additionally, though not explicitly named in the bill, the framing of HB 4077 and proposed use cases implies the inclusion of an environmental justice index, a single value combining multiple environmental, human health, climate, and socioeconomic indicators to provide an overall summary of community conditions for the purpose of comparisons or rankings.

The tool can be prioritized for one or more of the following intended uses:

1. **Identify Environmental Justice Communities**
   - HB 4077: "*Identify environmental justice communities [affected by agency programs]."*
   - Based on the mapping tool EJ index, users could designate communities above/below a certain threshold as areas for concentrated environmental, public health, and social action or activism. Designating certain geographic areas could guide agencies, CBOs, community members, and other stakeholders to direct

attention to those communities and identify what interventions are taking place and/or where gaps exist. The tool could be used to identify environmental, human health, and/or social burdens, as well as highlight community resiliency.

- Examples from other state EJ tools:
  - CalEnviroScreen: CalEPA designated the top 25% of census tracts in CalEnviroScreen as disadvantaged communities for the purpose of investing cap-and-trade proceeds (SB 535).
  - Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map: The Washington State Department of Health uses their mapping tool to identify 'highly impacted communities' if they meet one or both of two criteria: 1) the area (census tract) ranks a 9 or 10 on the mapping tool's index score; 2) the area is covered or partially covered by 'Indian Country' as defined in and designated by statute.

2. **Prioritize Funding/Resource Allocation**
   - HB 4077: "*Prioritize [agency] funding to help address identified impacts on environmental justice communities.*"
   - The mapping tool could be used to ensure that resources are invested in the areas where they are needed most. This could be done by specifying designated EJ communities to receive funding, by scaling a resource investment proportional to an EJ index score, or through other strategies based on the mapping tool data and/or index/indices.
   - Examples from other state EJ tools:
     - Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map: Washington's Climate Commitment Act uses their mapping tool to identify 'overburdened' communities to receive at least 35% of the investments in the clean energy transition, clean transportation, and climate resiliency projects.
     - California Healthy Places Index: Public health leaders used the HPI tool to direct resources to communities experiencing the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19.

3. **Bolster Community Engagement and Advocacy**
   - HB 4077: *"Conduct outreach and engagement activities with environmental justice communities to inform:*
     - *the development, adoption, implementation **OR** enforcement of environmental laws, administrative rules **OR** agency policies."*
   - The mapping tool could be used to target improved community engagement in geographic areas designated as environmental justice communities, including prioritizing areas for agency outreach related to permitting and rulemaking. The tool could be used in the initial planning stages of community engagement to build demographic and environmental context and ensure outreach is accessible and

accurately reflects community concerns. The mapping tool data could also support and validate community testimony to address environmental justice concerns in their area.

- Examples from other state EJ tools:
  - <u>CalEnviroScreen</u>: A community organization in California reached out to CalEPA to collaborate on collecting water quality data to improve the CalEnviroScreen data for their community.
  - <u>CalEnviroScreen</u>: CalEPA enhances existing environmental justice efforts related to compliance and enforcement initiatives in disproportionately impacted areas identified using CalEnviroScreen. The tool is used across multiple agencies to identify communities in which to prioritize community consultations, inspections, and enforcement coupled with compliance assistance.

4. **Inform Policy and Program Development**
- <u>HB 4077</u>:
  - *"Establish measurable goals for reducing environmental health disparities [within agency programs]";*
  - *"...inform the development, adoption, implementation **OR** enforcement of environmental laws, administrative rules **OR** agency policies."*
- The mapping tool could be used to inform data-driven decision-making related to agency, CBO, and other stakeholder policy and program development. The mapping tool could be used to assess how designated environmental justice communities may be positively and/or negatively affected by a proposed policy, program, project, or activity.
- Examples from other state EJ tools:
  - <u>Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map</u>: The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act recommends state agencies use the EHD map to conduct environmental justice assessments for decisions that impact overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
  - <u>CalEnviroScreen</u>: SB 1000 requires jurisdictions that have one or more disadvantaged community, designated using CalEnviroScreen, to integrate environmental justice goals, objectives, and policies into their General Plans.
  - <u>New Jersey EJ Mapping, Assessment and Protection Tool</u>: New Jersey's Environmental Justice Law mandates the state's Department of Environmental Protection to reject certain permits for developments relating to gas-fired power plants, sewage plants, and recycling facilities if they have a disproportionate negative impact on 'overburdened communities' identified by the mapping tool.

Matthew Davis, Department of Environmental Quality

Participating in person

Matt Davis is with the Department of Environmental Quality, serving as Policy and External Affairs Manager. In this role he leads the department's government affairs team, budget planning, communications, engagement with the Environmental Quality Commission, and supports environmental justice work. He can address questions about environmental conditions data layers and overall project management and governance.

Eric Main, Oregon Health Authority

Participating in person

Eric Main is the Environmental Justice Mapping Lead at the Oregon Health Authority. He is responsible for providing and maintaining data on human health for the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool. Eric also organizes the EJ Mapping Tool Methodology Workgroup which includes participants from several State agencies and Metro.

Jen Seamans, Oregon Health Authority

Participating via teleconference

Jen Seamans (pronouns: use my name) is the Environmental Public Health Data and Epidemiology Manager at Oregon Health Authority, overseeing:

• OHA's environmental and occupational epidemiology capacity, assessing burden and disparate impacts on human health from environmental hazards and climate change

• Oregon Environmental Public Health Tracking: public-facing data dashboard of maps, graphs and information on environmental hazards and associated health outcomes

• Technical assistance for local and tribal public health partners integrating environmental health data into planning efforts

• Oregon's Occupational Public Health programs, including the Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program.

Jen brings an epidemiologic lens to Methodology Workgroup participation, and subject matter expertise in farmworker health (as former statewide COVID-19 epidemiologist for farmworkers), water quality and water insecurity.

Kim Tham, Oregon Health Authority

Participating via teleconference

Kim Tham (she/her) identifies as a Chinese American woman and public health professional who works at intersection of climate and environmental justice in solidarity with those who are impacted most. She manages Environmental Toxics and Climate & Health Resilience programs at the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division. These programs address the public health impacts of industrial pollution and environmental exposures at high priority sites across Oregon. They also support community education, protections, and resilience to environmental hazards. OHA is working with local public health, tribal public health, and community based organizational partners to modernize our public health system, so that it can be adaptive to health equity challenges including climate and environmental hazards. Through Public Health Modernization, OHA currently funds about 75 community partners doing public health work in environmental health, emergency preparedness, and communicable disease prevention work. Kim and her team are currently supporting the OHA health equity grant opportunity, which is open to community-based organizations now through December 1.

Myrica McCune, Oregon State University Institute of Natural Resources

Participating via teleconference

Myrica McCune is serving as the primary interface between the OSU development team at Oregon Explorer and the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool project team. She will be coordinate and contribute to the development of the mapping tool interface when the project progresses to that state. She can answer any questions about mapping tool functionality that may arise during the intent conversation.

Janine Salwasser, Oregon State University Institute of Natural Resources

Participating via teleconference

Janine Salwasser will be on hand to address any questions about intent and how that goes hand-in-hand with the identification of primary users and secondary users, and how OSU use the beta testing to evaluate whether the tool is addressing the intended use by the primary users. She anticipates that she will lead the beta testing.

Ethan Sharygin, Portland State University Population Research Center

Participating in person

Ethan Sharygin is the Director of the Population Research Center. PRC is a technical collaborator with the mapping tool project team and methodology committee, producing data layers that will feed into the mapping tool. He will be available to address questions about what demographic or socioeconomic data could be responsive to different intents.

Staff Report and Memorandum

To: Chair and members of the Environmental Justice Council

From: Joel Iboa, Chair of the Environmental Justice Council, and Staff

Date: November 2, 2023

Regarding: Agenda Item 4 – Partnerships

The Council will not take action on this agenda item.

Proposed Council Action: None

This agenda item will describe the partnership and funding needs to execute listening sessions in 2024 and 2025. Oregon Health Authority will share information about funding opportunities that can be evaluated for listening session partnership.

Unfunded Partnership Needs:
Community Participation Compensation
Grant Acquisition
Community Recruitment

The Council will also have the opportunity to discuss potential short session asks from Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority.