

# OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

February 8, 2024  
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

## Public Meeting Agenda

This public meeting will be conducted in person at 700 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR Conference Room 601. Attendees may also join virtually on Zoom Webinar by registering using the link below. Written testimony can be submitted in advance, to [van.nguyen@deg.oregon.gov](mailto:van.nguyen@deg.oregon.gov).

### Register in Advance to Participate Virtually:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3aQ6E0z0TRqYuz1-avPtkg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3aQ6E0z0TRqYuz1-avPtkg)

9:30 a.m.	Item 1:	Call to Order – Chair Joel Iboa
9:40 a.m.	Item 2:	LUBGWMA Nitrates Update – Staff Briefing
10:30 a.m.	Item 3:	Agency Annual Reports – Staff Council Discussion
10:50 a.m.	Item 4:	Governance – All Council Discussion
11:20 p.m.	Item 5:	Leadership Elections - All
12:00 p.m.	Item 6:	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Item 7:	Leadership Elections Continued – All Council Discussion
12:50 p.m.	Item 8:	HHS Farmworker Engagement – Council Member Valentin Sanchez & Guest Briefing
1:10 p.m.	Item 9:	Public Comment
1:30 p.m.	Item 10:	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@deg.oregon.gov](mailto:van.nguyen@deg.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@deg.oregon.gov](mailto:van.nguyen@deg.oregon.gov) to make your request.

# Staff Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Environmental Justice Council

From: Staff from various state agencies

Date: February 2, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item 2 – LUBGWMA Nitrates Update**

This agenda item regarding nitrate contamination at the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management area will include updates from the Governor's Office and the following state agencies and presenters:

Governor's Office: Gabriela Goldfarb

Oregon Health Authority: Gabriela Goldfarb

Oregon Department of Health Services: Shelly Wight

Department of Environmental Quality: Laura Gleim & Mike Hiatt

Oregon Department of Agriculture: Isaak Stapleton

Oregon Water Resources Department: Chris Kowitz

# Staff Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Environmental Justice Council  
From: Hoang-Van Nguyen, Environmental Justice Council Coordinator  
Date: February 5, 2024  
**Regarding: Agenda Item 3 – Agency Annual Reports**

ORS 182.550 Section 1 requires state agencies designated as natural resources agencies per ORS 182.535 to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Council.

These agencies include:

- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- State Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Water Resources Department (OWRD)
- State Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- State Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Department of State Lands (DSL)
- State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- State Marine Board (OSMB)
- Public Utilities Commission (OPUC)
- Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Department of Energy (ODOE)

Each of the agencies above collaborated within their agencies to respond to the prompts outlined in ORS 182.550 and to additional questions posed by the Environmental Justice Council during their meetings in 2023. These include discussion during the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (Agenda Item #7).

To support development of the annual reports, the Environmental Justice Council (EJC) Coordinator hosted workshops for state agencies on October 23, 2023; November 27, 2023; and December 28, 2023 to allow state agencies to collaborate on how to respond to the 2023 prompts. This allowed for interagency information sharing and development of best practices within the EJC Liaison team. A template was also developed to provide guidance for all agencies on how to incorporate content that would answer the prompts from ORS 182.550 and the questions posed by the EJC. Use of this template was voluntary, but most agencies used this template as a starting point for their reports.

In addition to the monthly workshops in the last quarter of 2023, the state agency team of EJC Liaisons have been meeting at least monthly to discuss feedback from EJC meetings,

their needs to implement environmental within their respective agencies, and information sharing that led to deeper interagency collaboration outside of meetings.

The EJC Coordinator has also collected annual reports from all the listed state agencies and will distribute the annual reports to all Council members. This information will also be available for public consumption on the EJC website by February 29, 2024.

State agencies request the EJC to consume the reports throughout 2024 and provide feedback on the information provided. They also request guidance on how to address their agency needs that can enhance their ability to implement more robust environmental justice programs that lean on the pillars of meaningful involvement, fair treatment, and centering their work with environmental justice communities.

Discussion:

- What kind of support does the EJC need to review and digest agency annual reports?
- Does the EJC prefer that agencies present their annual reports during EJC meetings?
- How would the EJC prefer to provide feedback to agencies?
- Future Considerations: What other information would the EJC like to see in agency annual reports?

# Council Member Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Environmental Justice Council  
From: Environmental Justice Council Members Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Jim Kreider,  
and Quinn Read  
Date: February 5, 2024  
**Regarding: Agenda Item 4 – Governance**

This agenda item was created for the EJC to continue governance discussions regarding the draft EJC Charter.

# Council Member Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Environmental Justice Council

From: Chair and Members of the Environmental Justice Council

Date: February 5, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item 5 & 7 - Leadership Elections**

This agenda item was created for the Environmental Justice Council to deliberate and vote on leadership elections of the Chair and Vice Chair.

# Council Member Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Environmental Justice Council  
From: EJC Member Valentin Sanchez and Assistant Professor Jennifer Martinez Medina, Willamette University  
Date: February 5, 2024  
**Regarding: Agenda Item 8 – Health and Human Services Farm Worker Engagement**

Attachment 1: HHS Farm Worker Engagement 01172024

Jennifer Martinez Medina, Assistant Professor at Willamette University, and Valentin Sanchez, Senior Paralegal at the Oregon Law Center (and EJC member), led an initiative to facilitate a meeting between farmworker advocates, US Health and Human Services, and state agencies. The effort involved coordinating a virtual caravan, followed by a virtual roundtable discussion to raise some of the most important EJ and Climate Change issues impacting farmworkers and their family members. The meeting was originally planned as an in-person event in Woodburn, Oregon, the session transitioned to a virtual format in response to unforeseen inclement weather conditions.