Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Extension

Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Extension Rationale

Presented to the Oregon Environmental Justice Council on August 7, 2024.

AUGUST 7, 2024 RECORDING LINK

Project Initiation Delayed

Key staff not hired until a year after HB 4077 enrollment in March 2022

EJC not regularly meeting until June 2023

EJC was established at the same time of project initiation

Onboarding new EJC members

Community Input Delayed

Statutory listening sessions have not commenced

- Additional opportunities for stakeholder and public input being considered

EJC desires community input to contribute to decision making

Difficulty Hiring a Facilitator

Lack of participant compensation for listening sessions

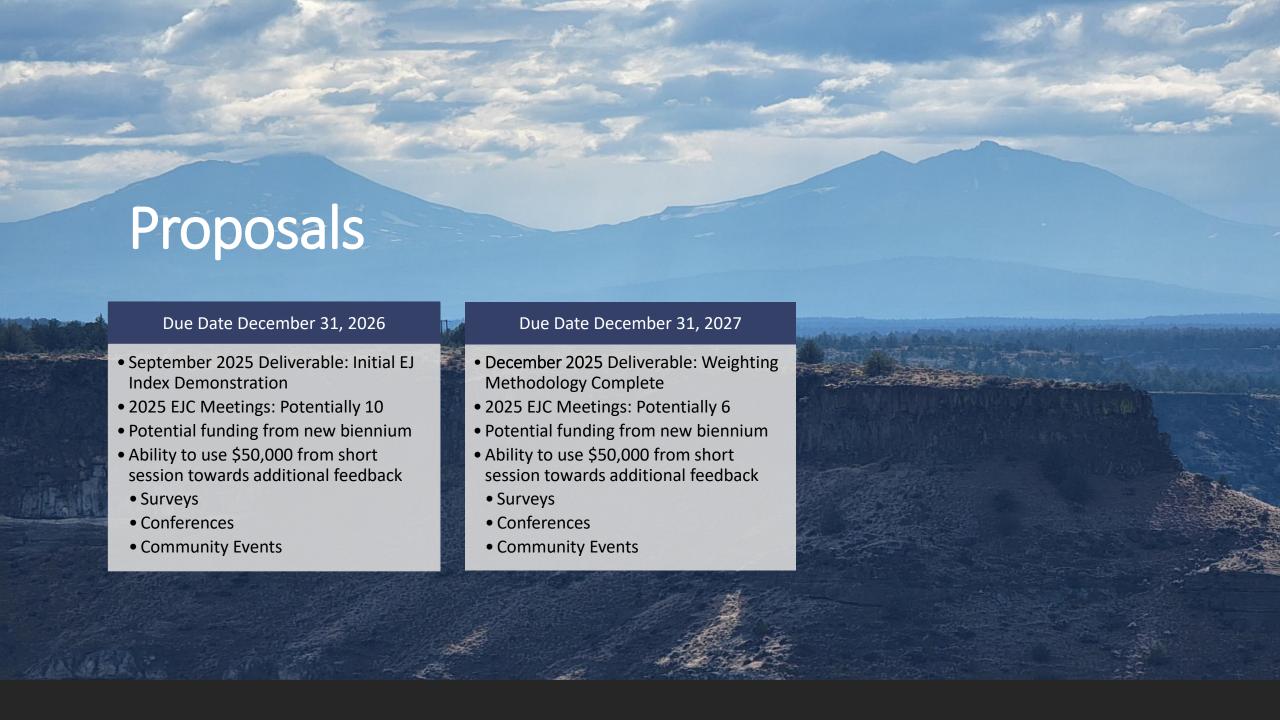Limited budget of $40,000

Project Complexity

Participation from multiple state agencies required

Increased complexity
- Decision Point 1 introduced an additional subdomain: Built Environment
- Decision Point 3 introduced six indices rather than one statewide index

Tribal communities are environmental justice communities and tribal governments are sovereign

Executing listening sessions with technical development increases complexity

Proposals

Due Date December 31, 2026

- September 2025 Deliverable: Initial EJ Index Demonstration
- 2025 EJC Meetings: Potentially 10
- Potential funding from new biennium
- Ability to use $50,000 from short session towards additional feedback
  - Surveys
  - Conferences
  - Community Events

Due Date December 31, 2027

- December 2025 Deliverable: Weighting Methodology Complete
- 2025 EJC Meetings: Potentially 6
- Potential funding from new biennium
- Ability to use $50,000 from short session towards additional feedback
  - Surveys
  - Conferences
  - Community Events

EJ Mapping Tool Project Team Testimony – State

Melissa Foltz – Inventory Team

Eric Main – Methodology Team

Hoang-Van Nguyen – EJC Liaison Team

Inventory

The data collection process is dependent on the EJC's initial (draft) selection of indicators for the EJ index. Following indicator selection, the data inventory workgroup will reach out to agencies to begin the data collection process. The data collection process is on the critical path prior to the sensitivity analysis to be performed by the methodology workgroup.

Data collection is expected to take a minimum of two months. Agencies will be asked to transform their data into census tract boundaries prior to delivering to methodology team. The Data Inventory workgroup will work with the Methodology workgroup to provide direction to agencies to successfully complete the transformation. Data submission is expected to take some agencies additional time to complete the process due to complex data sets or limited resources.

Methodology

Feedback during beta testing may require the Methodology Workgroup and Environmental Justice Council to revisit and revise 1 or more of the 10 decision points. Revisions to data and/or indicator weighting will require 1 to 2 months for data refinement and sensitivity analysis.

EJC Liaisons

The liaison team will lead identify which personnel will be included in focus groups and guidance development.

Guidance development is contingent on the INR beta tool being available for focus group discussion.

EJ Mapping Tool Project Team Testimony – Oregon State University

Janine Salwasser & Myrica McCune – Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources

Institute for Natural Resources

The process to develop a final EJ Mapping tool interface is dependent on PRC delivering to INR the final indices and documentation which is dependent on the Inventory group delivering final data to PRC which is dependent on completion of all the listening sessions focused on index selection and all the agencies delivering their data in a form that can be used by PRC.

For development of the EJ Mapping tool interface, INR will require at least six months to develop a beta version of the tool, followed by a 2-month user evaluation process performed online (focus groups with users and/or community listening sessions, one-on-one beta testing with 4-5 users, EJC member tool testing), followed by one to two months to make any refinements to EJ Mapping tool interface before EJC signs off on the final tool at an EJC meeting.

EJ Mapping Tool Project Team Testimony – Portland State University

Ethan Sharygin & Gilbert Moncho – Portland State University Population Research Center

Population Research Center

At this stage PRC need to extend arise from dependencies in workflow with other agencies.

PRC Deliverables
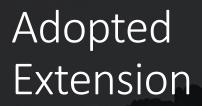PRC will deliver two main items:

- **Dataset with Socio-Demographic Variables from census.org**
- **Online Dashboard to Showcase and Customize the Initial Index**

Input Requirements:
1. Dataset Production:

- **Variables Inventory:** To produce the dataset, PRC needs to receive the list of variables from the inventory teams.
- **Timeline:** Once PRC receives the inventory (set to be delivered by March 2025), we will need a period of 1 to 2 months to produce the dataset.
- **Integration Period:** After the dataset is ready, we will need an additional 2 to 3 months to integrate it into our tool.
- **Completion Date:** If Data Inventory is available by March 2025, PRC will need until July 2025 to collect and integrate the demographic dataset.

2. Initial EJ Index Mockup Creation:

- **Weighting and Methodology:** To create the Initial EJ Index Mockup, PRC requires the final weighting and methodology provided by the methodology workgroup.
- **Replication Period:** Once the weighting methodology work is complete (set to be finalized by July 2025), PRC will need about 3 months to replicate the method in our tool.
- **Customization Feature:** The purpose of this replication is to allow customization of the weights and constituent indicators.
- **Completion Date:** If methodology work is finalized by July 2025, PRC will deliver the Initial EJ Index Mockup by November 2025.

Adopted Extension

Environmental Justice Mapping Tool
Due Date: **December 31, 2027**