



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Draft Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2020
Virtual Only

Task Force members present:

Victor Rodriguez
David Mendoza
Stephanie Celt, alternate for Cassie Bordelon
Michael Furze
Sarah Vorpahl, alternate for Michael Furze
Millie Piazza
Rebecca Hollendar, alternate for Larry Epstein

Beihua Page, alternate for Larry Epstein
Allison Camden
Laura Johnson
Emily Pinckney
Rowena Pineda
Peter Godlewski, alternate for Gary Chandler
Judy Twedt
Ignacio Marquez

Task Force members absent:

Tomas Madrigal
John Stuhlmiller
Sonia Bumpus

Task Force staff present:

Elise Rasmussen, Project Manager
Hannah Fernald, Administrative Coordinator

Esmael Lopez, Community Engagement Coordinator
Cait Lang-Perez, State Board of Health
Melanie Hisaw, State Board of Health

Guests and other participants: *(Some participants chose not to submit their full names or affiliations)*

Jenny Six, Presenter, University of Washington
Katriana Dubytz, Presenter, University of Washington
Evan Lih, Presenter, University of Washington
Charmi Ajmera, Presenter, University of Washington
Saba Rahman, Presenter, University of Washington
Amira Steeler, Presenter, Oregon's Office of the Governor
Linda Roman, Presenter, Oregon's Office of the Governor
Oriana Magnera, Presenter, Verde

Katie Valenzuela, Presenter, California Environmental Justice Alliance
Earl Key, Presenter, Washington State Department of Transportation
Carol Lee Roalkvam, Presenter, Washington State Department of Transportation
Charlene Kay, Presenter, Washington State Department of Transportation
Senator Rebecca Saldana
Jean Mendoza
Janice Tufte, Tufte Islamic Civic Engagement Project
David Ortiz, Communities of Color Coalition

Matt Doumit, Lew PUD, Cowlitz PUD,
Tacoma Public Utilities, and Port of
Longview
Sameer Ranade, Front & Centered
Ashely MP
Marsha
Brent McFarlane
Scott O'Dowd, Department of Ecology
Adrienne
Ben Hughey
Jackie Baybe
Cindy Ervin

Isabel Carrera Zamanillo, University of
Washington
Iroman
Marsha
Paul Tabayoyon
Damaris Espinoza
Anita Ahumada
Brenda Medina
Aruna

David Mendoza, Task Force Co-chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Esmael Lopez, Staff gave a land acknowledgement, followed by Elise Rasmussen, Staff, orienting members and the public to the online meeting format.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Mendoza, shared that if there has ever been a time to speak out about environmental injustice and health equity, it is now. In Yakima County people are being denied services for COVID-19 in local government. She stated that an important community leader died of COVID-19. He owned and operated a grocery store and restaurant as well as taco trucks in the area, and the Yakima Health District did not track people exposed to him. Ms. Mendoza also shared that workers in the food processing and food packing industry are striking because they don't have masks. People speaking to the press say that workers are valued, however Mexican people who work in her community are more than valued workers, they are human beings. She believes the Yakima Health District should be doing the same thing for this community as others in the area. Yakima is notoriously short on resources, and may be waiting for the state to take action. Ms. Mendoza called on The State Department of Health to send staff to do case tracking. She stated that in Yakima, 70 people have died, 1% of the county is infected, and that this is an environmental justice issue. Ms. Mendoza believes it is discrimination, racism, and oppression. She spoke about a mural in the Yakima Health District office that shows the abundance of agriculture in Yakima, but it pictures two white men surveying land, one white woman and child picking flowers, and the only person of color shown is harvesting crops at farmers' knees. According to Ms. Mendoza, members of the Board of Directors are all Caucasian, and when the virus hit, government went to businesses to see how well workers and jobs are protected. Some of the owners of fruit packing companies said they would like masks for workers, but were not able to purchase any. However, she said, the community is making hundreds of masks. These business owners could advertise and purchase masks from community members sewing fabric masks. Ms. Mendoza ended by saying that she has shared a proposed resolution with Task Force staff which would require the State Department of Health to send staff to do outreach in the Yakima community. Ms. Fernald, Staff, noted for Task Members that a letter written by Ms. Mendoza is posted on the website under meeting materials for today.

Janice Tufte, stated that she is currently involved in ending homelessness efforts and her comment relates to healthcare for the homeless. She appreciated what Jean mentioned about Yakima which is at the forefront of many of our thoughts because Yakima is a hotspot for COVID-19 and farmworkers and agricultural workers deserve our efforts. Ms. Tufte shared that on the west side of the state we have a large number of individuals experiencing homelessness. The pandemic is shining a light on something that has been an issue before COVID-19: The fact that individuals do not have opportunities to wash their hands regularly, use restrooms, or access fresh water. Ms. Tufte spoke about the risks that people who live in close corridors face, and that people experiencing homelessness are not able to access bathrooms in libraries and community centers while they are closed. Ms. Tufte spoke about the public health concern that people don't have access to restrooms so they use a latrine that could into local creek beds. She ended by stating that it is important to consider economic disparities during COVID-19 and how they impact the ability to practice social isolation, quarantining, and contact tracing.

Ashley MP, participated as a resident and individual from Puyallup, Washington. They thanked those who just brought attention to the underrepresented members of our communities in rural communities. Their main concern was about how the State is working in collaboration with Tribes, including urban Native communities, around environmental justice and health inequities. They stated that the Seattle Indian Health Board does great work, and Louie Gong of Eighth Generation donated much-needed medical supplies to Seattle Indian Health Board to address the COVID-19 response. They wondered how much information from Tribes is going into Task Force work, and recommended working with the University of Washington Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies Department which can help incorporate important information and elevate voices often erased.

Ms. Fernald, Staff, shared that public comment can also be submitted to the Task Force's email address at healthequity@sboh.wa.gov.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: The Task Force approves the May 18, 2020 agenda.

Motion/Second: Judy Twedt/Michael Furze. Approved unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF APRIL 2, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: The Task Force adopts the April 20, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion/Second: Allison Camden/Laura Johnson. Approved unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION: INCORPORATING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTO WASHINGTON'S COVID-19 RESPONSE & RELIEF WORK – POSSIBLE ACTION

Co-Chair Mendoza, stated that the purpose of this agenda item is to discuss how COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted various communities across the state.

Christy Curwick Hoff, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities & Department of Health's (DOH) Community Engagement Task Force, shared that she has been working on the COVID-19 response since early March and is focused on equity and social justice and addressing health disparities related to COVID-19. She focused her presentation on

COVID-19 data that currently exists, data gaps, and improvements for data collection at the state level. Ms. Curwick Hoff then discussed how some local health jurisdictions have data available at the local level beyond state-level data, which has caused confusion at times when talking about state or local data. Ms. Curwick Hoff stated that data currently included on the DOH dashboard are numbers and proportions for cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, including by race and ethnicity. She shared that completeness is improving over time, however important data are still missing. Ms. Curwick Hoff shared that DOH's Community Engagement Task Force has been working with the surveillance team and epidemiologists to identify more data addressing health equity concerns.

She discussed which data sources the State is using, including number counts and proportions, but mentioned that age-adjusted COVID-19 rates are not yet available for race/ethnicity and rates are necessary in order to compare health outcomes across racial/ethnic categories. She stated that these rates should be available soon. Additionally, Ms. Curwick Hoff said there are missing data for cases, and case data is primarily collected through follow-up case investigation and tracking. At the start of the pandemic it was difficult to keep up with case investigation and follow-up, but the Governor has since called for an enhanced setup for case investigation moving forward. Ms. Curwick Hoff noted that Washington is a local control state, meaning local jurisdictions are responsible for testing, case investigations, and tracking efforts, but local jurisdictions can request support from DOH. Ms. Curwick Hoff said she had looked at preliminary data, and, not surprisingly, we will likely see large inequities once these statewide data are available, especially within the Latinx community.

Ms. Curwick Hoff spoke about the need to link available data to the primary language data. The University of Washington has started to do this, and has noted there are also inequities by language. Additionally, she said there is a need to look at data by occupation. Many essential workers are not able to adequately social distance at work, and teleworking may not be an option for many essential workers. We already know farmworkers are disproportionately affected, and as the number of H2A workers increase, we expect it to be more difficult to isolate and protect themselves. She said that DOH is also looking into including sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data, housing data, and other geographic analysis. DOH is also looking into establishing data sharing agreements with other agencies and health systems to capture data moving forward.

Ms. Curwick Hoff closed by making it clear that the Community Engagement Task Force expected the pandemic would disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. Therefore, she said the Community Engagement Task Force has not waited for data and has been working to address inequities since their work began.

Co-Chair Mendoza introduced his proposal to use the Environmental Health Disparities map to assist with the COVID-19 response. He spoke about the COVID data gaps at the state level, making it difficult to identify how to equitably distribute relief funds and resources. He also shared a recent Harvard study that links poor air quality to an increase in mortality due to COVID-19. Co-Chair Mendoza proposed that the Task Force recommend using the Environmental Health Disparities map as a tool to help identify where to distribute COVID relief resources and funds across the state.

Task Force members discussed whether the map's data are an adequate proxy for understanding where there are communities that are at risk of high rates of COVID-19. The Task Force discussed how the map may be a good starting place, but did not think the tool should be used to make decisions. Some members expressed concerns about not having a full dataset with COVID cases, deaths, hospitalizations, and that using the map may be premature. There was also a question about the relevance of this proposal to the legislature that convenes this Task Force.

Other members discussed the strengths of the Environmental Health Disparities Map, especially linking the map's air quality data to the findings of the Harvard study that we are seeing higher rates of COVID-related deaths due to long-term exposure to poor air quality. Those in support of the motion spoke about how the map has useful data and that we should not wait for the perfect tool or data. They discussed how the map can be used in addition to other decision making tools to provide context for the potential for disproportionate COVID impacts based on environmental health disparities. There was also a discussion about potential data sharing agreements with other agencies, such as Labor and Industries to better understand who and where essential workers are across the state.

A concurrent discussion occurred using the Zoom (teleconference web platform) In-Meeting Chat function. Below are comments related to the COVID-19 response discussion (public participants' comments are anonymous):

- Peter Godlewski, Member: "I had some questions about the data gathering being done. Is it being controlled for other factors such as education level and income?"
- Sarah Vorpahl, Alternate Member: "In terms of this proposal, who are you suggesting use these layers? Also, are you suggesting they use the full EHD or certain layers like PM 2.5?"
- Co-Chair Mendoza: "I have not envisioned directing the precise use of the map by agencies, only that it is a tool that has a range of data points that are useful and relevant. If anything, we would also point out to the work of the mapping sub-committee on the best uses and limitations of the map."
- Public Participant: "Is the community engagement task force tracking impacts to unhoused people state wide?"
- Michael Furze, Member: "Would you please provide more of your thinking of the map as a proxy for incomplete data. Am I wrong in thinking that it should stand alone as a tool?"
- Public Participant: "As a non-profit, the Communities of Color Coalition is now using the map to help us both define critical community issues and to distribute resources to those communities impacted by environmental, health, social, and economic disparities. Most non-profits do not have an in-house research department dedicated to both collecting and interpreting data. Your maps provide us with a vital tool and opportunity to improve our engagement efforts and review data visually to help support communities in need."

Co-Chair Mendoza presented a revised draft motion: "*The Environmental Justice Task Force recommends that State's official COVID-19 response and recovery efforts to utilize the Environmental Health Disparities map, in addition to other important data sets, as an important tool to inform decisions in developing programs in response to the impacts of COVID.*"

Co-Chair Mendoza asked that the Task Force consider and discuss this information at a future point.

Motion: The Task Force tentatively approves the recommendation to use the EHD map to inform the distribution of COVID-related funds and resources in WA.

Motion/Second: Not addressed.

The Task Force took a break at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

6. Learning from Environmental Justice Work in California, Oregon, and Washington

Millie Piazza, Member, introduces the University of Washington graduate students that the Department of Ecology has contracted with to provide environmental justice and equity-related recommendations that would also support the Task Force's work. The group was made up of five students: Jenny Six, Katriana Dubytz, Evan Lih, Charmi Ajmera and Saba Rahman. The group presented the scope of their work, the methods they used to arrive at their recommendations, and key themes they identified to further environmental justice and equity work (listed here):

- Sustained, visible, and demonstrated investment in and prioritization of EJ from department leadership paves a path for EJ work.
- Measuring progress on EJ requires intentionality about the purpose, limitations, and burdens of evidence collection.
- Toolkits are imperfect if used as a sole resource for EJ work, but used in concert with other efforts they can be valuable stepping stones.

The group also highlighted two key recommendations from their report in this presentation:

- Build a community of practice around environmental justice work.
- Use equity and environmental justice tools carefully and intentionally; measure their use and impact.

In addition to the content included in their presentation, the group shared that their report include several more recommendations relevant to the Task Force.

Allison Camden, Member, introduced the presenters from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Earl Key, Carol Lee Roalkvam, and Charlene Kay who presented on the agency's focus on inclusion, workforce development, and creating practical solutions for environmental justice and equity at WSDOT and in WSDOT's programs and projects. Mr. Key spoke about the ways in which WSDOT integrates Title VI, equity, and environmental justice into agency work. Ms. Lee Roalkvam spoke about the current priorities WSDOT has regarding project delivery. Ms. Kay spoke about the community engagement during the planning and design phases of the North Spokane Corridor WSDOT project, which would create more inclusive transportation options.

Co-Chair Mendoza welcomed the next presenters from Oregon: Oriana Magnera, Amira Streeter, and Linda Roman. Ms. Magnera shared information about the organization, Verde where she is the Energy and Climate Policy Coordinator. She discussed Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force's roles and challenges as being an underresourced and understaffed body with no authority. Ms. Magnera also discussed proposed next steps for the

Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force, which includes elevating the group to be a commission.

Ms. Streeter, advisor to the Oregon Governor, discussed environmental justice as a priority for the state and covered the history of Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force as well as the appointed members. She also discussed the recent Executive Order in Oregon, which updates carbon emissions goals and means to reach those goals through climate justice. She shared that there is an interagency workgroup starting in June that will provide opportunities for community engagement, and will give more authority and capacity to the Environmental Justice Task Force in Oregon. Ms. Roman added that alignment between all levels of organizations is critical, and working with Oregon's Environmental Justice Task Force is one way to build capacity in communities that are leading environmental justice work.

Katie Valenzuela from the California Environmental Justice Alliance also presented on California's state goals and principles of environmental justice, and current environmental justice issues in California. She discussed AB 32, which established 2020 targets and created a committee to address issues. Ms. Valenzuela also shared that California is discussing how to tackle carbon neutrality and improve health outcomes. She shared that recommendations for moving forward include prioritizing emissions reductions and letting communities lead through statewide advisory committees.

A concurrent discussion occurred using the Zoom (teleconference web platform) In-Meeting Chat function. Below are comments related to these presentations (public participants' comments are anonymous):

- Public Participant: "Hi Katie, what is your opinion regarding California's participation in REDD+? What recommendations is the EJ Advisory Committee making about this topic, considering that the impact of this mechanism on communities in the global South is not always positive?"
- Katie Valenzuela: "We completely oppose the use of REDD in California's carbon market, and did a strong fight against the Tropical Forest Standard California adopted last fall."
- Public Participant: "Thank you Katie, I have been collaborating with communities in Chiapas, Mex. where many indigenous communities were evicted from Montes Azules because of the carbon markets, I would be happy to connect as possible."
- Katie Valenzuela: "Yes, please let me know. We've collected extensive research and academic support for our opposition, I've even been to Acre Brazil to make the case."
- Public Participant: "[General question] How does this EJ Taskforce (WA) elevate the voices of underrepresented community members from across the state that already struggle with downward mobility and educational inequities. Are there opportunities to serve at the state level if you don't already have graduate level degrees? I've lived in WA my entire life, and it took me 12 years to obtain my Bachelors of Science, compared to my peers. I often am passed over in broader environmental sectors and careers to folks that are more 'educated' than me. I would like to see more equity here in the overall task force and opportunities to elevate voices in more meaningful ways in addition to public comment. King County, specifically the City of Seattle, has a greater number of community members with higher education compared to say my

own county: Pierce County [which is less than 33% as of the last census if I remember correctly].”

- Co-Chair Mendoza: Regarding membership of the taskforce, we have 4 community representatives. Myself, representing Front & Centered, Rowena representing the Spokane API Coalition, Emily representing Tacoma Urban League Young Professionals and Tomas representing Community to Community. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to fill a spot for a tribal representative. Initially, we had planned each of our meetings to be held in different locations across the state to provide insight from those local communities. Esmael, is our Outreach Coordinator and he can touch on his work and how he has engaged with communities across the state. In addition, Front & Centered, on its own, has funded a number of community organizations across the state to host community conversations to inform them about the EJ taskforce and to hear directly from those communities about the issues they are facing and help Front & Centered develop solutions to those issues.”
- Esmael Lopez, Staff: “Thanks, David. I will speak a little about our outreach to tribal communities and my work with historically and currently marginalized communities.”

The Task Force took a lunch break at 12:36 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

7. Community Engagement Update

Esmael Lopez, Task Force Outreach Coordinator, reported on his outreach work. Mr. Lopez said there was uncertainty with outreach efforts at the beginning of the COVID-19 situation, but this situation has also produced innovative ways to get the pulse of communities. Mr. Lopez emphasized trust between communities and government. Workers in the Yakima area have not feel safe at work due to COVID, and they decided to stand up and strike. Mr. Lopez talked about the Protecting Immigrant Coalition and Families and Public Charge, and highlighted the fact that the stimulus check was not always available to immigrant families.

On Saturday, he participated in Front and Centered’s listening session and conversation with community members in Spokane. He shared that a community member talked about the uranium mine and the devastating health effects to the Spokane Tribe. On the Environmental Health Disparities map, the tribe was ranked at a 4 and cancer ranked at 1, which was extremely concerning to this community member because she felt the map painted an inaccurate picture of what was actually occurring in her community. Mr. Lopez also highlighted the concern and rise in racist acts to the Asian Pacific Islander community during this time of COVID-19. He referenced a Seattle Times article about an officer that did not respond to racist action and the Proclamation that resulted.

Mr. Lopez closed by stating that trust takes intention, dedication, and openness, and made the point that sometimes information has been used against communities. He shared examples of communities who were not aware of this Task Force, and that we see the need for community engagement and we need to cast a wide net to reach people.

8. Reviewing Final Report Outline & Washington Environmental Justice Definition – Possible Action

Co-Chair Rodriguez and Ms. Rasmussen, Staff, oriented members to the bolded section headers of the draft outline of the final Task Force report (on file). They asked Task Force

Members to review the draft outline of the final Task Force report with these three questions in mind:

1. Is anything missing?
2. Is anything unnecessary?
3. Does anything need changed in reference to the bolded pieces?

Members and public participants had the following feedback:

- Include constraints/limitations of the process.
- Include what other states are doing to make the connection between environmental health and environmental justice.
- Move the proposed statewide EJ definition (not yet adopted) to the recommendations section.
-

Staff said they will make changes to the report outline based on this feedback.

Motion: The Task Force tentatively approves the report section headings

Motion/Second: Laura Johnson/Ignacio Marquez. Approved unanimously.

The Task Force discussed the draft statewide definition for environmental justice next (on file).

Members Millie Piazza and Emily Pinckney shared their approval for creating a definition that includes an end goal for environmental justice, which includes eliminating environmental burdens, as opposed to equitably distributing burdens. Ms. Pickney went on to state the need for addressing past harm. Member Allison Camden, spoke about the need to prevent future harm, and that past harms, while should be acknowledged, seems like a separate conversation. Member Piazza said that given NEPA and SEPA as they stand, we need to discuss how history or past harms connects with public health and environmental laws. Member Emily Pinckney said when she hears that agencies do not feel comfortable discussing the past, erasure comes to mind. Acknowledging the past is the first step toward improving in the future. Rowena Pineda, Member, said she understands the focus on proceeding forward, but acknowledging the past is important. She discussed the uranium mining near Spokane and the need to address this environmental justice issue that continues to affect communities, especially communities of color. Member Piazza shared that acknowledging and addressing perhaps creates some tension. Peter Godlewski, Member, made the distinction between acknowledging and addressing, and stated that addressing is a bigger step. Co-Chair Rodriguez, said the importance of this definition sets the foundation and direction for the elements for environmental justice work to be successful. Environmental justice and equity work is about healing the social fabric of our society, and that we need to acknowledge the past to ground our current strategies. We have to understand what the problems have been. He went on to say that trust is one of the greatest gifts we have as humans, and that by building trust in the context of historical oppression, we are in a better position to unleash the power of relationships and progress.

Co-Chair Mendoza read aloud the comment from Beihua Paige in the Zoom Chat:

“The ask is not for agencies to un-do what has happened in the past but actively use it as the basis for considering which communities in which to prioritize positive, future-oriented

investments. Understanding history and past harm is the first step to contextualizing the issue and the EJ considerations of the task at hand.”

Co Chair Mendoza said that the Task Force will continue to discuss this draft definition in the June meeting.

A concurrent discussion occurred using the Zoom (teleconference web platform) In-Meeting Chat function. Below are comments related to the draft statewide definition of environmental justice (public participants’ comments are anonymous):

- Public Participant: “Will the definition also be inclusive of other aspects of EJ, that are not solely human-centered?”

9. Mapping Subcommittee Presentation -- Possible Action

Ms. Rasmussen provided background on what the Mapping Subcommittee has been charged with, which includes giving guidance to state agencies on topics such as using the Environmental Health Disparities map (EHD map) and identifying highly impacted communities.

Member Piazza said that the first thing they tackled as a group was focusing on how to utilize the EHD map as it currently exists, but also has identified a list of limitations and how it might be improved in the future. Member Piazza and Member Johnson presented existing recommendations for how to use the map (on file). She then presented new recommendations (details on file):

- Consider and incorporate equity analysis (e.g. GARE’s Racial Equity Toolkit).
- Use the top 20% (ranks 9 and 10 as an initial screening for areas with environmental justice considerations.
- Set goals and track map use.
- Develop technical guidance for practitioners, likely developed by the Department of Health.

Peter Godlewski, Member, raised concerns around what issues might come up with not being able to use Census Block Groups, to which Ms. Piazza responded that track level is the smallest geographic area that they can use without losing important data.

Co-Chair Mendoza asked about the mid-level rankings (e.g. ranked 6-8 on the map) and how those groups will be addressed. Ms. Piazza said that prioritizing communities ranked as a 9 or 10 on the map is an initial way to understand data, and that depending on your needs, you might choose to look at communities ranked lower than a nine.

Co-Chair Rodriguez commented on the importance of using multiple data sets to form a clearer picture, and that we need qualitative data as much as quantitative data from community engagement. He also wondered how community engagement can inform measurable goals. He said that tools like the EHD map are helpful early on in processes and shaping initial ideas. He encouraged the Mapping Subcommittee to identify key moments in the annual government process where these mapping recommendations would be most meaningful. Member Piazza agreed with Co-Chair Rodriguez and thinks that adding a temporal aspect is something they will want to revisit and build out more.

Judy Twedt, Member, made a technical comment about the term “highly impacted communities.” She made the point that ‘impacted’ is not defined and could be positive or negative. She suggested using phrasing such as ‘most burdened’.

Co-Chair Rodriguez wondered what the recommendation means by ‘practitioners’, and mentions that practitioners are often not involved until the end of the process. Who are the best people within an agency to be using this tool, and what training would those folks need? Member Johnson said she imagines that this training would be available to anyone, and thinks that a big part of this will be building on what already exists. She also commented on the need for a more in-depth training to understand and use the map data is what this recommendation speaks to.

Peter Godlewski, Member, asked about the peer review behind the study of the map, and Member Johnson said that the Mapping Subcommittee may explore putting together a similar peer reviewed process that was done for the CalEnviroScreen map, though this plan has not been fully vetted with the subcommittee.

A concurrent discussion occurred using the Zoom (teleconference web platform) In-Meeting Chat function. Below are comments related to the Mapping Subcommittee presentation (public participants’ comments are anonymous):

- Public Participant: “What will government institutions be willing to change once communities can document inequities using their own tools?”
- Sarah Vorpahl, Alternate: “I would be curious to know what agency executive leadership uses to set policy/make decisions. What would be most useful/compelling for them?”
- Public Participant: “While the map is “not the territory,” I do believe your mapping tool is part of a larger story about equity issues in WA. It is a valuable resource for residents of WA.”
- Stephanie Celt, Member: “Another idea is (perhaps in addition to leadership with DOH) EJ leads within agencies would hold responsibility for being trained to deliver training? They may best know who within an agency will need the training and be able to set it up.”

Motion: The Task Force tentatively approves the Mapping Subcommittee’s recommendations.

Motion/Second: Stephanie Celt/Judy Twedt. Approved unanimously.

The Task Force took a break at 3:32 p.m. and reconvened at 3:37 p.m.

10. Community Engagement Subcommittee Presentation – Possible Action

Ms. Rasmussen, Staff, began with an overview of the presentation, which included key recommendations, community engagement plan guidance, and next steps. She reviewed the feedback received from the Task Force, which included streamlining guidance and integrating why community engagement is crucial.

Megan McClellan, Subcommittee Co-Chair, reviewed the first key recommendation: that each agency develop a community engagement plan as outlined in the CE plan guide. She reviewed updates to the community engagement plan guidance documents, and shared

that updated demographics and language access elements will be included in a future iteration of the document.

Ms. Rasmussen, Staff, wraps up with next steps, including integrating how to address barriers to public participation and a refined guidance document.

Michael Furze, Member, stated that it would be helpful to synthesize the guidance document even further to garner agency leadership buy-in, and that linking the definition of environmental justice more clearly would be powerful. He thinks a one page explanation is needed to capture the interest of executive level stakeholders.

Motion: The Task Force tentatively approves the Community Engagement Subcommittee's key recommendation that all agencies should have an agency-specific community engagement plan.

Motion/Second: Stephanie Celt/Millie Piazza. Approved unanimously.

11. Next Steps & Reflections

Co-Chair Mendoza, thanked everyone for their time today. Co-Chair Rodriguez, reiterated his gratitude to everyone for their contribution to today's meeting. He said it was good to know that people are committed to making a difference in our state, and moving forward, he encouraged feedback and engagement in subcommittee work. Co-Chair Rodriguez said that in the next few months, they will begin to flesh out the final report, and today was great progress towards that goal. Other members and staff also shared their appreciation for the content and engagement in today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Rodriguez, adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Victor Rodriguez, Task Force Co-chair

David Mendoza, Task Force Co-chair

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Kelie Kahler, Washington State Board of Health Communication Manager, at 360-236-4102 or by email at kelie.kahler@sboh.wa.gov TTY users can dial 711.

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