Draft Environmental Health Disparity Map Recommendations

Environmental Justice Taskforce

Mapping Subcommittee Charge

Guidance to State Agencies on:

I. Using the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map

II. Identifying "highly impacted communities" when using the EHD map

III. Establishing measureable goals & practices for reducing environmental health disparities

IV. Creating model policies for prioritizing highly impacted communities & vulnerable pollutions

Process:

- *Monthly public meetings from December to June*
- *Research team (publications review)*
- *UW Evans Graduate Student Research Team (publications review and interviews)*

PART I.
Recommendations on using the EHD Map

Map Considerations:

❖ **Recommendations are focused on the EHD map as it currently exists**

❖ Compiling comments on how the map might be improved

❖ Including a list of strengths & limitations of the EHD to guide its use

Draft Recommendations:
How to use the EHD Map

Area Assessment

Equity Impact Analysis

Project Prioritization

Service Equity Evaluation

Learn about the intended audience or potentially impacted community.

Analyze whether Highly Impacted Communities will be affected by a proposed policy, program, or activity.

Direct activities and investments towards the most burdened communities.

Evaluate the equitable distribution of agency activities across the state (or service area).

Cross-Cutting Agency Activities

Community Engagement

Grants & Loans

Capital Investment

Contracting

Fees & Costs of Service

Program Planning, Monitoring, & Evaluation

Policy Development

Rulemaking

Draft Recommendation:

Consider & incorporate equity analyses

Existing Equity Analysis Tools:

◦ Racial Equity Toolkit (GARE)

◦ Health Equity Assessment

◦ Budget Equity Tools

◦ ***And…?***

PART II.
Identifying Highly Impacted Communities in the EHD Map

Research:

❖ Information drawn from existing agency and organization practices

❖ Literature review

Draft Recommendation:

Use the top 20% (rank 9 & 10) as an initial screening for areas with EJ considerations

Identifying "highly impacted communities" in cumulative impact maps

EJSCREEN:
- Top 20% of census tracts is suggested starting point to identify areas with EJ considerations

CalEnviroScreen:
- Top 25% of census tracts are identified as *"Disadvantaged communities"*

Maryland EJ Screen:
- Top 10% of census tracts are the highest ranked level of EJ concern

PART III.
Recommendations for Measureable Goals

Map Considerations:

❖ Rankings are relative

❖ Useful for point-in-time comparison, but cannot comparatively track changes to census tracts over time

❖ Can only display data that can be made publically available

Draft Recommendation:
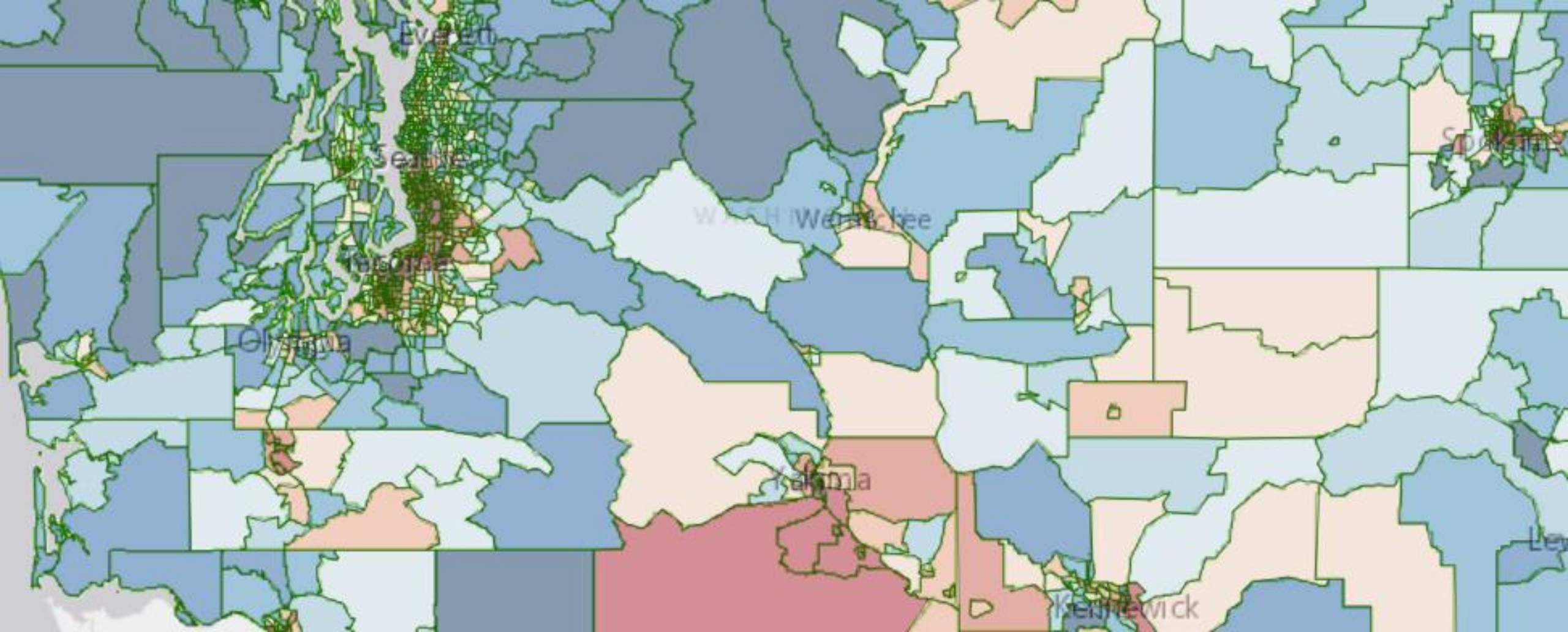# Set goals & track EHD map use

Such as:

- % of agencies incorporating the EHD map into program activities
- % of community engagement plans consulting the EHD map
- % of staff completing EJ training, with focus on how to use the EHD map

Do you have suggestions for how to use the EHD map for measureable goals?

Draft Recommendation:
Develop technical guidance for practitioners

- In-depth training materials for practitioners

- Opportunity for consultation

- Detailed description of how to utilize EHD map features

- Guidance on EHD map limitations

- ***And…?***

Thank You!
Questions?

Draft Mapping Subcommittee Recommendations
At a Glance

I. Mapping

- **How to use the map:**
  - Area assessment
  - Equity Impact Analysis
  - Project Prioritization
  - Service Equity Evaluation

- **Consider & incorporate equity analysis tools.**

II. Highly Impacted Communities

- **Use the top 20% as initial screening for areas with EJ considerations.**

III. Measureable Goals

- **Set goals & track EHD map use.**

- **Develop technical guidance for practitioners.**