

# Environmental Justice Council

## Workload Planning and Management Principles

Adopted by the Council on January 25, 2024

In its workload planning and management, the Environmental Justice Council (Council):

- Strives to meet the requirements of the HEAL Act and Climate Commitments Act.
- Strives to balance community and Tribal priorities the Council is aware of; the EJ Council's priorities; the HEAL Interagency Workgroup's and agencies' priorities, workplans, and timelines; the Council's duties and due dates in HEAL, the CCA, the state budgets, and other legislative timelines; and inflexible timelines within how state government operates (e.g. legislative session, release of the Governor's budgets, etc.).
- Recognizes the Council's priorities and timelines will not always align with the agencies' timelines. Conversely, the Council understands that agency's workplans and implementation processes and decisions may not allow them to immediately update tools, processes, and documents that are already in operation when the EJ Council adopts guidance on a HEAL deliverable. This may result in the agencies incorporating EJ Council guidance on the next iteration of that tool, process, document, etc. in co-governance with the Council.
- Recognizes that the Council, as a forum for community and Tribal voices, will prioritize and center time for Tribes and communities both outside of Council meetings and within Council meeting agendas through public comment periods, community connection agenda items, and other ways for authentic community connection and dialogue. Council staff shall provide regular report-backs to the Council and the respective Tribe and/or community on how the Council is being responsive and accountable to said input, feedback, and/or guidance.
- Strives to meet the Council's own needs to dedicate time to attend to its own governance and processes in order to successfully meet its statutory duties.

In full consideration of the above and previous 2023 Council workload planning experience, the Council will adopt the following workload planning and management principles:

1. Council attention will be equally given to HEAL and CCA matters.

2. The Council acknowledges and will integrate into its workload planning the observation that it often takes two Council meetings for the Council to come to consensus: At the first meeting, introduce an issue/topic for action in the first meeting; after the first meeting provide one-on-one meetings or small workshop(s) to give opportunity for discussion and clarification questions for possible further refinement; and at the second meeting discuss, refine as needed, and adopt or not by consensus policy positions and/or other documents.
3. The Council will prioritize funding to bring in expertise (community experts, experts on highly technical issues, economic experts, etc.) to support and supplement the Council's limited bandwidth and/or limited expertise to properly address its workload.
4. The Council can modify the agenda(s) and adopted work plan to be responsive to emerging issues such as external initiatives, new legislation, etc. as needed.
5. The Council does not have the capacity to engage in every rulemaking given its limited bandwidth. For any rulemaking public comment process, HEAL agencies are expected to follow and document the four principles below:
  - a. Tribal Consultation as required by law.
  - b. Council Community Engagement Values and Guidance.
  - c. The principle of not creating new or additional burden for the communit(y)ies by stopping the action when the agency already knows that the action will cause and/or increase harm to said communit(y)ies.
  - d. Comply and be consistent with HEAL, CCA, and existing Council guidance.