

WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Members:

March 8, 2022

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The Honorable Ms. Brenda Mallory, Chair
The Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Request for Resources for the White House Environmental Justice
Advisory Council
Request for Timelines for Key Deliverables
Request for Key Agency Contacts to Attend Public Comment Period
During Public Meetings
Recommendation for Increase in the Council on Environmental Quality
Budget and Staff**

Dear Chair Mallory:

Members of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) Scorecard Workgroup have been working to fulfill its mandate from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to draft recommendations on a Scorecard that will evaluate the Biden Administration's progress on implementing Justice40 and advancing environmental justice in all government policies, programs, functions, and activities.

**Request for Resources for the White House Environmental Justice Advisory
Council**

As the workgroup strives to meet the requested deadlines, we have reached consensus that the workgroup cannot fulfill its mandate without being assigned sufficient resource, personnel, and consultation capacities that are normally made available to federal advisory committees to achieve expected outputs. We are referencing the Scorecard Workgroup, but this lack of sufficient support applies to all the workgroups associated with the WHEJAC.

We appreciate the dedicated work of the Designated Federal Officer and relevant staff of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who work to ensure that protocols and norms are followed, assist in meeting facilitation, development of

public meeting agendas, communication of federal advisory committee requests, and ensure that meeting notes are compiled and disseminated for all the federal advisory committee meetings.

However, the members aspire to produce sophisticated and well documented reports, recommendations, and other outputs. The WHEJAC realizes that a high-quality document that reflects a scorecard for each agency subject to the Executive Order requires:

- advisors or advisory bodies from each agency;
- experts to help develop indicators and metrics that are specific to each agency's program areas;
- graphic designers, writers, and editors.
- Personnel support for holding public meetings and for managing review and revision processes involving public comments, agency comments, and other comments.

Many WHEJAC members have served on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Clean Air Federal Advisory Committee, National Children's Study, and others where it is a matter of course for such expertise, resources, and personnel be provided to ensure that volunteer members have the resources and assistance to succeed and address their mandate effectively.

Request for Timelines for Key Deliverables

The WHEJAC requests CEQ to provide timelines for key outputs that are crucial to the WHEJAC's considerations. The members need to know:

- When will the Interim Guidance on the Scorecard be finalized?
- When will the Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative be finalized?
- When will the final Climate and Economic Screening Tool be released to the public?
- When will the revisions to the Executive Order 12898 be finalized?
- When will we receive an organization chart for both the CEQ and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC); a list of IAC representatives; an update on the number of IAC meetings to date; and the plan for the IAC to engage with the WHEJAC?

Request for Key Agency Contacts to Attend Public Comment Period During Public Meetings

The public comment periods of our public meetings enhance the WHEJAC's understanding of the problems and issues deemed important to the public and provides the WHEJAC with additional information to consider as we develop advice and recommendations. The WHEJAC would like for CEQ and the IAC to take a more active role in responding to the public comments received during our meetings in person and in writing. The WHEJAC is requesting that CEQ and the IAC establish a point of contact for each agency to attend public meetings and listen to the public comment period. Agencies should be prepared to provide the WHEJAC at the next public meeting, an update on actions taken on the public comments received.

Recommendation for Increase in CEQ Budget and Staff

The WHEJAC will prepare a letter to the White House to recommend an increase in CEQ's budget and staff in order for it to be effective in implementing Justice40 in all-of-government policies.

We will appreciate your expeditious consideration and action on this request.

Sincerely,



Richard Moore, WHEJAC Co-chair



Peggy M. Shepard, WHEJAC Co-chair

cc: Members of the WHEJAC
Michael S. Regan, EPA Administrator
Matthew Tejada, Director Office of Environmental Justice, EPA
Corey Solow, Deputy Director for Environmental Justice, CEQ
White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council
Karen L. Martin, Designated Federal Officer, EPA