

# Environmental Justice Criteria

## DEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund

July 29, 2022

# What is the goal?

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Identify and prioritize assistance to communities that are most in need

- Economically distressed
  - Health burdened
  - Pollution burdened

# Outline

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1. Definition of “environmental justice”
2. CWSRF’s mission and environmental justice
3. Environmental justice criteria under consideration
4. How environmental justice criteria will be prioritized

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## Today

1. Definition of “environmental justice”
2. CWSRF’s mission and environmental justice
3. Criteria under consideration
4. How environmental justice will be prioritized

## Next meeting

1. Metrics under consideration
2. Analysis of effects
3. Comparison with current affordability criteria

# Outline

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1. **Definition of “environmental justice”**
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# Definition of “environmental justice”

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“The equal protection from environmental and health risks, fair treatment, and meaningful involvement in decision making of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration status, income, or other identities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn, and practice spirituality and culture.”

- House Bill 4077 (2021)

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# Definition of “fair treatment”

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“No group of people, including racial, ethnic or socioeconomic groups, should bear a **disproportionate share of the negative consequences** resulting from industrial, municipal and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal environmental programs and policies.”

- House Bill 4077 (2021)



# Inputs and outputs

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## Inputs

- Meaningful involvement in decision making

## Outputs

- Equal protection from environmental and health risks and fair treatment

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# CWSRF's mission and environmental justice

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Mission: provide financial assistance to communities so that they can prevent and mitigate water pollution

Mission + Environmental Justice: CWSRF should target assistance to communities that bear a disproportional share of the negative environmental and health consequences of water pollution

→ Which communities?

# Outline

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# Environmental justice criteria under consideration

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## **Economically distressed:**

→ Financial burden paying for water infrastructure

## **Health burdened:**

→ Environmental pollution had greater impact on health

## **Pollution burdened:**

→ Negative effect on quality of life

# Environmental justice criteria under consideration

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## **Economically distressed**

- Low income
- High unemployment

## **Health burdened**

- Low life expectancy
- Elevated health risks

## **Pollution burdened**

- Located near waterbody contaminated by pollutants
- Located near a facility that has a compliance violation

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# How environmental justice will be prioritized

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1. Scoring and ranking of loan applications
2. Targeting outreach
3. Targeting technical assistance
4. Determining principal forgiveness awards

# Wrap up

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By identifying and prioritizing assistance to communities that are disproportionately burdened by water pollution, DEQ CWSRF will advance the goal of ensuring that all Oregonians are equally protected from environmental and health risks

# Questions or comments

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