

Summary of Environmental Justice Outreach Activities since Fall 2005

The project team has been working to inform and involve minority and low income communities about the project. Below is a quick summary of activities to date.

Fall 05 Open Houses

- Purchased advertisements in:
 - The Asian Reporter
 - El Hispanic News
 - Portland Observer
 - The Skanner
- Sent press releases to the above media outlets.

April 06 Open Houses

- Purchased advertisements in:
 - The Asian Reporter
 - El Hispanic News
 - The Portland Observer
 - The Skanner
- Translated press releases into Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese, distributed them to the above publications and posted them on the Web site.
- Provided Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese interpreters at the Open Houses.
- Hired a sign language interpreter for the Open House held at Jantzen Beach in response to a request for the service.

Materials

- Translated both project newsletters into Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Posted all translated items to the Web site.

Outreach

- Staffed a booth at the Vietnamese New Year Celebration in February.
- Participated in the Say Hey! Partners in Diversity event in Portland.
- Staffed a booth at the Juneteeth Festival in June.

On the schedule for this summer,

- Good in the Hood
 - June 25
- Alberta Coop Farmers Market
 - July and August
- N/NE Business Association
 - July
- Kenton Business Association
 - June
- Say Hey Partners in Diversity
 - Quarterly

Targeted events not confirmed

- African American Unity Breakfast
- Events at Holy Redeemer and Saint Andrew Churches

Community Connections

The project team is working to make contacts with Latino and Russian-speaking communities through community-based service organizations.

Elements of the CRC Environmental Justice Program

Demographic Analysis

The project team conducted a demographic analysis of the area in 2005 to determine which communities need to be included in the outreach and environmental portions of the project. The analysis showed the project team needs to target efforts to reach low income, African-American, Latino, Vietnamese and Russian-speaking populations.

Community and Environmental Justice Group

We have finalized a charter, developed a preliminary schedule and work program for the Community and Environmental Justice Group. Recruitment of members is currently underway.

The purpose of this group is to ensure that communities affected by the project have meaningful opportunities to learn about and provide input to the project as it is developed.

The group allows us a structure for receiving input and recommendations from representatives of neighborhoods and underrepresented communities.

EJ Training

The project Task Force received an overview presentation on Environmental Justice in June. In addition, the project team

will host additional EJ training to be offered to members of the Task Force, the Community and Environmental Justice Group as well as neighborhood and community representatives. We are working with Running Grass, a nationally known EJ expert who works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle. In addition to the training he will provide for the project, Running Grass' other EJ general training sessions are available to CRC project participants. If there is interest, we can organize transportation to sessions offered outside of the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan area.

EJ Methods and Data Report

The project team will determine if there are disproportionate impacts to low income and minority residents within the project area and publish the results in a report. The report is part of the material collected in the draft Environmental Impact Study to determine the project's potential impacts and benefits to the natural and built environment.

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Washington State
Department of Transportation



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