

**Date:** February 18, 2010

**To:** Board of Directors  
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

**Subject:** Joint Meeting – Refreshing the Strategic Plan: Policy and Budget  
Issues

Honorable Members:

The main topic at the February Joint Meeting with the Board and the Advisory Council is to refresh the agency's current strategic plan in preparation for the FY11 budget. The Board has been clear with staff that it does not wish to fully revisit the Strategic Plan; instead it wants to update the plan by discussing the critical policy issues at the joint Board/Advisory Council meeting on February 25, 2010. This discussion will provide policy direction to staff members as we prepare the FY11 budget and work plans.

After discussion with the Board, it was decided the format of the joint meeting should be similar to the one used last year wherein the majority of the meeting was devoted to discussions between the members of the Board and Advisory Council. Staff members would identify key questions and issues to stimulate the discussion, but the major focus of the meeting would be facilitating a dialogue between Board and Advisory Council members.

Staff will open the meeting by briefly reviewing the agency's strategic plan from April 2007 and the five strategic focus areas. For each focus area, we will discuss what has been accomplished and what has changed in the three years since the plan was adopted. We will also present the key policy issues for each focus area.

There are additional materials available on the agency Web site that Board and Advisory Council members might find useful to inform the discussion. However, in the spirit of reducing paper waste, those materials are not included in the Board packet nor will they be printed as handouts at the meeting:

- Reducing Air Emissions Associated with Goods Movement: Working Towards Environmental Justice (November 2009, by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council)
- Health Effects and Economic Impact of Fine Particle Pollution in Washington (December 15, 2009, by the Washington State Department of Ecology)
- Transportation 2040 Executive Summary (January 22, 2010, by the Puget Sound Regional Council)
- Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy (2007 by the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma and Vancouver)
- Overview of the 2002 National Air Toxics Assessment (2004 by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency)
- The Next Ten Years Strategic Plan Final Report (April 2007, by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency)

In addition to these documents, Board and Advisory Council members might also find it useful to review materials found at the following Web sites:

- Cool Schools <http://coolschoolchallenge.org>
- Evergreen Fleets <http://www.evergreenfleets.org>

### **Next Ten Years Plan 2007**

The agency's ten-year goals, as stated in the strategic plan, are as follows:

- Reduce exposure to air pollution in all parts of our jurisdiction, especially where there are vulnerable, at-risk populations;
- Meet our health goal for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and be in attainment with federal standards in all four counties;
- Reduce air toxics health risks to less than 2001 risk levels;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels and continue to reduce emissions to meet our 2050 goal (70 percent below 1990 levels);
- Work with at-risk communities to help them become healthy communities; and
- Increase the percentage of people making clean-air and climate-friendly choices (2017 community survey).

To accomplish these goals, six focus areas were included as part of the strategic plan: Wood Smoke/Fine Particles, Diesel/Clean Fuels, Climate Protection, Community Planning, Environmental Justice, and Public Education and Outreach. We combined Climate Change and Community Planning into one work plan, so we currently have five strategic focus areas.

An issue cutting across all of the initiatives is funding. Because the strategic initiatives are highly dependent on per capita funding and the recession has stressed the ability of local jurisdictions to increase per capita, this is an issue that needs further discussion. In addition to periodically raising per capita, the strategic plan included creating a strategic initiatives fund to cover normal increases in agency operating costs. It appears that local government funding will not recover rapidly from the impacts of the recession.

How the agency can successfully fund strategic initiatives and what modifications to the initiatives are necessary due to funding constraints are important discussions. We have already responded to the funding constraints by reducing expenditures in public education and outreach and by leaving several Agency staff positions temporarily unfilled. This over-arching issue needs to be resolved as draft budget and work plans are prepared for Fiscal Year 2011.

### **Wood Smoke/Fine Particles**

#### *10 Year Objectives*

- Meet or surpass the new federal PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard
- Clarify and achieve our local health goal for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in both rural and urban areas
- Use the most cost effective mix of tools and programs to reduce wood smoke emissions

#### *Accomplishments Since 2007*

- Wood stove change out programs in Darrington, Marysville, and Tacoma
- Implemented new wood smoke curtailment program
- Received EPA approval of the Tacoma Non-Attainment area boundaries
- New legislation allows the banning of uncertified wood stoves in the non-attainment area and requires disclosure of uncertified stoves upon residential sale throughout the state

### *Key Changes Since 2007*

- Tacoma/Pierce County is now in non-attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- Need to prepare a plan to bring Tacoma into attainment
- There may be other areas in the region (e.g., Marysville) that do not meet the federal standard
- New funds from the legislature directed at wood stove change-outs
- Emerging funds for energy conservation (block grants)
- Ecology has released a report on Health Effects and Economic Impacts of Fine Particle Pollution

### *Issues for Board/Advisory Council Discussion*

- We have concerns about improper use of certified devices. Replacing old wood stoves with new ones may not achieve the reductions we need.
- We need to know more about our affected communities' wood burning practices to design strategies. Why do people burn wood in urban areas?
- What are the barriers to using cleaner forms of heat? How do we use innovative funding mechanisms to allow for conversions to natural gas?

### **Diesel/Clean Fuels**

#### *10 Year Objectives*

- Support the retrofitting of all diesel engines within our four county jurisdiction
- Reduce the health risk posed by toxic diesel particulate emissions
- Expand the voluntary Diesel Solutions program into private fleets by implementing a voluntary, grant-based program

#### *Accomplishments Since 2007*

- Clean up of school and transit buses complete
- EPA Cargo Handling grant for Ports of Seattle and Tacoma
- EPA Fierce Allegiance demonstration grant
- EPA BNSF grant for repowering three locomotives
- EPA Foss grant for retrofitting two tugs
- POS Clean Fuels project for container ships
- POS and POT Drayage truck replacement project
- Washington State Ferries projects and Kitsap Transit ferry project
- \$15 million DOE grant to Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition

#### *Key Changes Since 2007*

- Almost total retrofitting of public fleets
- Program will be complete in 10 years due to fleet turnover
- Routine state funds ceased in 2008
- New federal and state funds have emerged in the near term
- NW Ports Clean Air Strategy and funds from our port partners also drive our priorities as these address most at risk communities
- Stakeholder process conducted to consider diesel facility registration fee
- Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition added to Agency with focus on reducing fossil fuel use
- Climate work plan has focused on Evergreen Fleets and regional transportation and land use plans

### *Issues for Board/Advisory Council Discussion*

- Should our main focus be risk reduction in communities adjacent to the ports?
- Should we also highlight EPA's national focus on environmental justice and air quality risk from goods movement?
- Is there an emerging convergence of Clean Cities and Diesel Solutions?

### **Climate Protection/Community Planning**

#### *10 Year Objectives*

- Provide leadership in protecting future generations against catastrophic global warming by reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions
- Bring the full range of agency expertise, including regulatory authority, technical analysis and collaborative partnerships, to galvanize a social and economic transformation to a clean energy economy
- Use renewable clean energy, energy efficiency, advanced technologies and smart growth as key elements in a sustainable regional economy. Use fossil fuels only where necessary.
- Ensure that clean air and climate protection impacts and goals are considered in local/regional plans, policies, development regulations, standards and projects
- Support local government efforts to manage growth, reduce sprawl, promote effective mixed-use development, and create air and climate friendly communities
- Help prevent incompatible land uses, especially those with differential impacts on the poor and vulnerable

#### *Accomplishments Since 2007*

- National recognition for Cool Schools Challenge
- Successful implementation of Evergreen Fleets Project
- Led the Transportation portion of the Governor's Climate Action Team
- Active participant in the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation 2040 planning
- Clean Cities Coalition received \$15 million DOE grant which includes hybrids, natural gas replacements and electrification

#### *Key Changes Since 2007*

- More local jurisdictions involved in climate programs
- Ecology is now the lead agency for the state
- EPA is developing national regulations
- Congress may pass new legislation
- Launch of Evergreen Fleets
- Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition added to Agency programs

### *Issues for Board/Advisory Council Discussion*

- What is the long term vision for Clean Cities? What is our continuing role with Evergreen Fleets?
- What is our role in working with the Puget Sound Regional Council in land use and transportation planning?
- What is our regional role in assisting local governments with their climate change activities?

## **Environmental Justice**

### *10 Year Objectives*

- Raise awareness and knowledge throughout the agency of environmental justice and related issues; incorporate environmental justice into our values, policies and practices; integrate environmental justice into all of our work
- Develop partnerships with other organizations that can help us with environmental justice concerns and issues through their experiences and contacts within the communities
- Assess our jurisdiction for potential hotspot communities and take action to address identified air quality problems
- Enhance our accessibility and expand our outreach to underserved communities, especially those bearing a disproportionate burden of poor air quality and with populations that are at greater risk for related health impacts

### *Accomplishments Since 2007*

- Completed staff assessment, retained consultant to assist in training
- Working with the south Seattle community on Lafarge permitting issues
- Working with the Port of Seattle on community concerns about drayage trucks
- Completed EPA funded air toxics study in Tacoma and south Seattle
- Assisted EPA with air toxics sampling and community involvement regarding Concord Elementary School
- Working to understand and address environmental justice issues in Tacoma/Pierce County PM<sub>2.5</sub> non-attainment area

### *Key Changes Since 2007*

- Continued shifts in the demographics of our region resulting in many more non-English speakers
- Greater emphasis on Environmental Justice from EPA headquarters (may see new requirements for agencies receiving federal funds).
- Fundamentals of Environmental Justice training will be completed for all staff
- Beginning to assess how to integrate environmental justice strategies into Agency core work

### *Issues for Board/Advisory Council Discussion*

- Do we have a vision about how the Agency should implement Environmental Justice principles in our work?
- How do we give Environmental Justice the appropriate profile? Do we need a policy statement?

## **Public Education and Outreach**

### *10 Year Objectives*

- Raise awareness of air quality issues and solutions
- Influence clean air actions and behaviors
- Position our agency as a resource for people in our region
- Strengthen and sustain connections with our communities and partners

*Accomplishments Since 2007*

- Assisted implementation of the other work plan projects
- Conducted outdoor burning outreach in Kitsap County
- Implemented numerous anti-idling projects
- Developing Clean Home Heating campaign
- Participated in numerous public events throughout the region
- Developed national award winning Cool Schools Challenge program

*Key Changes Since 2007*


- Vacancies in the department
- Increasing need for Communications support and involvement in work plans
- Rise of social media as a communications tool
- Many new school programs are emerging (e.g. Washington Green Schools)

*Issues for Board/Advisory Council Discussion*

- Should the agency develop a coherent school-related focus and programs (e.g. Cools Schools)?
- Where do we add the most value in our messaging? Do we have a unique role in voicing concerns about wood smoke?

We look forward to discussing these issues with the Board and Advisory Council.

Respectfully submitted,



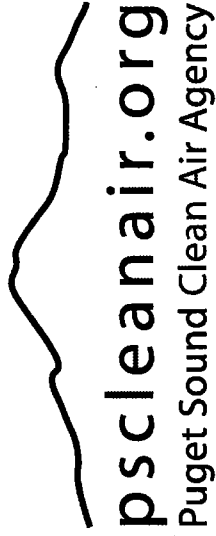
James L. Nolan  
Interim Executive Director

Attachment

jwc

*Working together for clean air*

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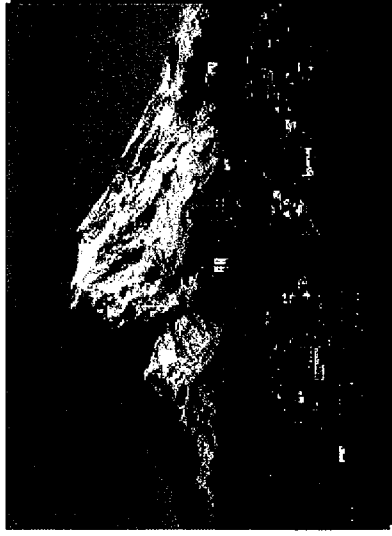
**JOINT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MATERIALS**



Date: FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Time: 9:15 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Location: Winter Rooms



Additional Meeting Reference Materials

10-Year Strategic Plan; NW Ports Clean Air Strategy; Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Air Toxics Evaluation; 2009 EPA Goods Movement Recommendations; and Department of Ecology BenMAP Data

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## OUR VISION

In the Puget Sound Region, the air we breathe is consistently clean and healthy, and we are successfully doing our part to prevent catastrophic global warming.

We are achieving clean air and climate goals while maintaining a productive, sustainable economy and effective, responsive government.

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## WOOD SMOKE/FINE PARTICLES

### Objectives

Meet or surpass the new federal PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard

Clarify and achieve our local health goal for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in both rural and urban areas

Use the most cost effective mix of tools and programs to reduce wood smoke emissions

### Current & Future Influences

EPA approval of Tacoma non-attainment area boundaries

State Implementation Plan for Tacoma is due by December 2012

Air Quality in Tacoma is *not* improving

Additional non-attainment areas possible e.g. Marysville

New funds from the legislature directed at wood stove change outs

Emerging funds for energy conservation (block grants)

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## WOOD SMOKE/FINE PARTICLES

### Concerns and Issues

Improper use of certified devices: Replacing old wood stoves with new ones may not achieve the reductions we need.

Do we know about our affected communities' wood burning practices to bring effective change? Why do people burn wood in urban areas?

What are the barriers to using cleaner forms of heat? How do we use innovative funding mechanisms to allow for conversions to natural gas?

### Discussion Notes

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## DIESEL/CLEAN FUELS

### Objectives

- Support the retrofitting of all diesel engines within our four county jurisdiction
- Reduce the health risk posed by toxic diesel particulate emissions
- Expand the voluntary Diesel Solutions program into private fleets by implementing a voluntary, grant-based program
- Current & Future Influences
  - EPA Cargo Handling grant for Ports of Seattle and Tacoma
  - EPA Fierce Allegiance demonstration grant
  - EPA BNSF grant for repowering three locomotives
  - EPA Foss grant for retrofitting two tugs
  - POS Clean Fuels project for container ships
  - POS and POT Drayage truck replacement project
  - Almost total clean up of public fleets; program completion in 10 years due to fleet turnover
  - Routine state funds ceased in 2008
  - New federal and state funds have emerged in the near term

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## DIESEL/CLEAN FUELS

### Concerns and Issues

Should our main focus be risk reduction in communities adjacent to the ports?

Should we also highlight EPA's national focus on environmental justice and air quality risks from goods movement?

Is there an emerging convergence of our Clean Cities and Diesel Solutions programs?

### Discussion Notes

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# CLIMATE PROTECTION/COMMUNITY PLANNING

## Objectives

Utilize full range of agency expertise to galvanize a social and economic transformation to a clean energy economy.

Use renewable clean energy, energy efficiency, advanced technologies and smart growth as key elements in a sustainable regional economy.

Ensure that clean air and climate protection impacts and goals are considered in local/regional plans, policies, development regulations, standards and projects

Help prevent incompatible land uses, especially those with differential impacts on the poor and vulnerable

## Current & Future Influences

Ecology is now the lead agency for the state

EPA is developing national regulations

Congress may pass new legislation

Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition added to Agency programs

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## CLIMATE PROTECTION/COMMUNITY PLANNING

### Concerns and Issues

What is the long term vision for Clean Cities? What is our continuing role with Evergreen Fleets?

What is our role in promoting climate education in the schools (e.g. Cool Schools)?

What is our role in working with the Puget Sound Regional Council in land use and transportation planning?

What is our role in assisting local governments with their climate change activities?

### Discussion Notes

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## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### Objectives

- Raise agency knowledge of environmental justice and related issues; incorporate E.J. principles into our values, policies, practices and into all of our work
- Partnerships with other organizations who can help us with E.J. concerns and issues
- Assess potential hotspot communities; take action to address identified air quality problems
- Enhance/expand our accessibility and outreach to underserved communities, especially those bearing a disproportionate burden of poor air quality and with populations that are at greater risk for related health impacts
- Current & Future Influences
  - Need to understand/address E.J. issues in Tacoma/Pierce County PM 2.5 non-attainment area
  - Work with the South Seattle community on Lafarge permitting issues
  - Work with the Port of Seattle on community concerns about drayage trucks
  - Continued shifts in the demographics of our region resulting in many more non-English speakers
  - Greater emphasis on environmental justice from EPA headquarters

