

**VISION 2020 + 20 Update  
Issue Paper on Environmental Justice  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE VISION 2020 UPDATE**

**Growth Management Policy Board  
Puget Sound Regional Council**

**POLICY BOARD ADOPTED *ACTION TO PROCEED* – AUGUST 25, 2005**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE VISION 2020 UPDATE**

The Puget Sound Regional Council has made a strong commitment to integrating Title VI into its ongoing work program. As part of this commitment, specific Environmental Justice outreach efforts and research programs are being designed to support the update of VISION 2020. This outreach and research will help assure broad participation, and that the region's vision and revised policies take into account issues pertinent to EJ communities. Enhanced outreach will also help to establish a better foundation for ensuring the active participation of special population groups into the regional comprehensive planning process over the long term.

Since the mid-1990s, a renewed emphasis on environmental justice has become an integral part of the planning process for urban regions in the United States. The concept of "environmental justice", derived from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other civil rights statutes, was reemphasized as a national policy goal by presidential Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994. The Executive Order directs "each federal agency to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."

The Regional Council has developed a three-step environmental justice game plan for the VISION 2020+20 project:

- Step 1 focuses on documenting and communicating the Regional Council's responsibility for environmental justice, along with the findings of analysis and outreach that the Regional Council has conducted to date.
- Step 2 defines the scope of environmental justice analysis that will be conducted as part of the VISION 2020+20 environmental impact statement.
- Step 3 will consist of continued and enhanced direct outreach throughout the VISION 2020+20 project.

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*Additional documentation on the Puget Sound Regional Council's environmental justice program is available at:*

**[www.psrc.org/about/titlevi/ej.htm](http://www.psrc.org/about/titlevi/ej.htm)**