



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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MEMO

DATE: May 1, 2015

TO: Planning and Sustainability Commission

FROM: Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner
Roberta Jortner, Senior Planner

CC: Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner, Susan Anderson, Director

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7 *Environment and Watershed Health* - Follow-up to February 10th Work Session Equity and Environmental Justice Discussion

During the February 10, 2015 Planning and Sustainability Commission work session staff agreed to work with Commissioner Maggie Tallmadge to strengthen the integration of equity-related and environmental justice-related issues into Chapter 7, *Environment and Watershed Health*.

Since then, staff and Commissioner Tallmadge have worked together to develop recommended revisions, using Commissioner Tallmadge's comments on the Proposed Draft as the initial starting point. The following memo presents staff's recommended revisions in based on these discussions. Please note that the policy numbers and draft language presented below are subject to refinement during preparation of the Recommended Draft Comprehensive Plan.

We appreciate Commissioner Tallmadge's thorough review and extra effort to enrich the equity-related elements of Chapter 7 and the Comprehensive Plan as a whole.

Recommended revisions:

1. P. GP7-1:
 - a. First bullet: add cultural to the list of the values of nature...
 - b. Add a bullet: Ensure that all Portlanders experience the benefits of a livable environment and healthy watersheds, and reduce environmental disparities affecting under-served and under-represented communities.
 - c. 11th bullet (formerly the 10th bullet. Add a reference to other plans addressing environmental equity.

2. P GP7-2: Under *Why is this important?* add language noting the concern that environmental degradation will have disproportionate negative social, public health, and cultural impacts on



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communities of color and other under-served and under-represented communities. Also add language noting that City land use plans and infrastructure investments will help to reduce environmentally-related disparities.

3. Add a new policy under the initial chapter section heading: *Improving environmental quality and preventing degradation*. This overarching policy replaces references to under-served and under-represented communities in a few specific policies. This change was discussed and agreed upon by the PSC. The new policy continues to reference those topic areas of particular concern that were raised in public comments.

Tentative language:

Policy 7.2 Environmental equity. Prevent or reduce adverse environment-related disparities and impacts on under-served and under-represented communities through land use planning and infrastructure investments, including disparities related to air and water quality, natural hazards, contamination, climate change, and access to nature.

4. **Policy 7.8 (Formerly 7.17) Habitat and biological communities.** Add the intent to enhance habitats that provide culturally important food sources, including those associated with Native American fishing rights.
5. **Policy 7.16 (formerly 7.31) Restoration partnerships.** Coordinate plans and investments with other jurisdictions..., sovereign nations,... and community organizations and groups, including under-served and under-represented communities, to recognize watershed- or location-specific issues, attributes, and values, to maximize optimize the benefits, distribution, and cost-effectiveness, of watershed environmental-restoration and enhancement efforts and investments.
6. **Glossary.** Add examples to glossary terms for “under-served” and “under-represented” communities, including communities of color.