



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION

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In 2013, the Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis (CHIA) was co-authored by Just Health Action and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group. The CHIA found that a range of health exposures and impacts disproportionately affect people in the Duwamish Valley, an area with the greatest number of contaminated waste sites, poor built environment characteristics, and severe air pollution compared to the rest of Seattle. Life expectancy in the neighborhoods of Georgetown and South Park is up to 13 years shorter than wealthier parts of Seattle. With the support of this data, the Duwamish Valley is characterized as an area with disproportionate health impacts and environmental injustices where more effective actions and investments are needed to address health and economic inequities.

The 2011 Century Agenda commits the Port of Seattle to create opportunity for all, steward our environment responsibly, partner with surrounding communities, promote social responsibility, conduct ourselves transparently and hold ourselves accountable. Recognizing that some near-Port communities, such as South Park and Georgetown, experience a higher proportion of environmental impacts and lack equitable access to the Port’s benefits to the region, the Port of Seattle launched a pilot project to address community equity issues. Originally as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building grant awarded in 2017, the Port began equitable engagement with communities in the Duwamish Valley.

Over the last two years, Port staff and community members have engaged in a collaborative learning and strategic planning process to build capacity and take action on shared priorities to address inequities. The pilot project has built capacity across multiple Port-wide departments such as Human Resources, External Relations, and others to embed equity in their approaches with the Duwamish Valley. Lessons learned from the pilot will be incorporated into the establishment of a long-term Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program. The Program will be guided by a jointly-created Community Benefits Commitment (Commitment), and will provide a roadmap and funding strategies for how the Port and community will collaborate now and in the future. To ensure equity, actions included in the Commitment and its implementation will work to address the concerns of residents, workers, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, Native Americans, people with low incomes, youth, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, limited English proficiency individuals, and women- and people of color-owned businesses and organizations in the Duwamish Valley.

The Port of Seattle and the Duwamish Valley community have developed three shared goals to continue this critical work:

- 1. **Community and Port Capacity Building for Ongoing Collaboration** – Provide training for Port staff to inclusively engage near-Port neighbors and build community capacity that empowers their meaningful participation in Port decision-making processes that affect the Duwamish Valley. Provide training for community members to better

85 understand the Port’s mission, operations, and programs and support for their ongoing  
86 consultation on community engagement best practices.

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88 **2. Healthy Environment and Communities** – Reduce environmental harms that impact  
89 the health and livability of near-Port Duwamish Valley communities.

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91 **3. Economic Prosperity in Place** – Innovate and convene Port-related industries to  
92 support anti-displacement solutions through targeted access to living wage jobs,  
93 training, career pathways, and other support programs that enable near-Port Duwamish  
94 Valley neighbors to thrive in place.

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96 To support this work, the Port Community Action Team (PCAT), a compensated advisory  
97 committee consisting of Duwamish Valley community members, was formed in 2017. In  
98 alignment with pilot project goals, the group has developed the following mission statement to  
99 guide its collaboration with the Port:

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101 The Duwamish Valley PCAT is a group of neighbors from Georgetown and South Park  
102 who are collaborating with the Port of Seattle to remedy their historical and current  
103 disproportionate, cumulative impacts to the environment and its people. To further our  
104 goals of a healthy, sustainable community, we are creating a Community Benefits  
105 Commitment with the Port based on the principles of equity, anti-displacement, and  
106 empowerment. Our agreement will focus on principles of environmental justice by  
107 promoting a clean environment, increasing economic opportunities, and building  
108 community capacity.

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