



**COMMISSION  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 8b

**ACTION ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** December 10, 2019

**DATE:** November 22, 2019  
**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director  
**FROM:** Christina Billingsley, Sr. Program Manager, Environmental Engagement  
Veronica Valdez, Commission Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Request adoption of Resolution No. 3767: A resolution of the Port of Seattle Commission establishing a Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy to guide the implementation of the Duwamish Valley Community Equity Program (DVCEP) and other Port operations that impact the Duwamish Valley Community (Community).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On May 28, 2019, the Port Commission adopted Motion 2019-07 authorizing the creation of the DVCEP and directing staff to collaborate with the Community to achieve three shared goals: Community and Port Capacity Building for Ongoing Collaboration, Healthy Environment and Communities, and Economic Prosperity in Place. Motion 2019-07 directed Port staff to develop a policy directive to include guiding principles, a list of immediate and future actionable items, a strategy and timeline to accomplish goals, and auditable reporting standards for the DVCEP.

Port staff embarked on a collaborative effort to co-write the policy directive with the Community who will be directly impacted by the implementation of the DVCEP. Port Community Action Team (PCAT) representatives conducted over two months of outreach to various community stakeholders in the form of one-on-one meetings, group presentations, and meetings with community organizations to ensure Community feedback was incorporated into the policy directive. In total, over 300 community stakeholders and 27 community-based organizations were informed or consulted about the policy directive.

**BACKGROUND**

Recognizing that some near-Port communities experience a higher proportion of environmental impacts and lack equitable access to the benefits generated by the Port, the Port of Seattle and the near-Port Duwamish Valley Community launched a pilot project in 2017. Originally as part of a U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Pilot Project technical assistance grant, the pilot project focused on improving Port engagement with near-Port communities that experience environmental justice issues.

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Over the course of the pilot project, Port staff learned that the challenges facing the Community were not limited to environmental impacts. Due to historic and current discriminatory policies and institutional racism practiced by local governments, industries, and other institutions, Duwamish Valley community members have been excluded from generations of economic mobility and civic involvement. Previous inequities such as redlining and underinvestment in community infrastructure established patterns of disparities that continue to this day, contributing to significant cumulative health impacts. As a result, the DVCEP established by the Commission Motion 2019-07 addresses multiple inequities affecting the community.

In addition, Port staff gained knowledge about multiple community assets that have anchored the Duwamish Valley as a cultural, economic, and social base for a resilient and diverse community despite inequities. In 2017, the Port Community Action Team (PCAT) was established to ensure that representatives from the Duwamish Valley neighborhoods of South Park and Georgetown could meaningfully participate in the pilot project. As part of a groundbreaking contract to advance equitable engagement principles at the Port, PCAT members act as community-based consultants and are compensated for contributing their expertise. This partnership has created significant mutual benefit to the Port and the Community.

The PCAT provides training and coaching to Port staff on inclusive engagement practices and cultural competency that directly impact the effectiveness of achieving Century Agenda goals. In addition to co-writing Port of Seattle Motion 2019-07 and Resolution No. 3767, PCAT members provided consultation on areas such as:

- Multicultural leader engagement during the scoping for environmental review of the SAMP Near Term Projects;
- Hiring and recruitment for the Senior Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion position;
- Marketing and visual communications best practices for multicultural audiences;
- Public event programming and design, such as the 2019 Multilingual Duwamish River Boat Tour; and
- Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy stakeholder engagement.

### **DETAILS**

This policy directive will ensure the Port's collaboration with the Community to achieve three shared goals:

- Goal 1: Community and Port Capacity Building for Ongoing Collaboration
- Goal 2: Healthy Environment and Communities
- Goal 3: Economic Prosperity in Place

The Executive Director, or a delegate, shall be accountable to ensure the implementation and adequate annual funding of the DVCEP. To date, the Port has allocated \$292,000 in 2020 toward implementing the DVCEP.

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**Goal 1: Community and Port Capacity Building for Ongoing Collaboration**

In alignment with the Port’s equity initiatives to address institutional racism and recognizing that the most effective methods for solving inequities come from communities themselves, the DVCEP shall build Port and Community capacity to ensure meaningful, equitable engagement and partnership. To this end, the DVCEP will foster shared decision making, support existing and upcoming community leaders, and collaborate with Community on activities that advance mutually beneficial outcomes. The Port’s action areas include, but are not limited to:

- A. Inclusion
- B. Training and Education for Port and Community
- C. Port and Community Engagement
- D. Community Feedback
- E. Inter-agency Collaboration
- F. Data-Driven Results

**Goal 2: Healthy Environment and Communities**

The Port shall proactively address climate change and other environmental factors that affect the health of the Community. The Port shall encourage the NWSA to partner with Community to address impacts on the Community resulting from the movement of goods to and from NWSA-operated cargo terminals, such as climate change and air quality emissions, truck traffic and noise issues, and water quality. The Port’s action areas include, but are not limited to:

- A. Climate Change
- B. Air Quality
- C. Truck Traffic
- D. Noise Impacts
- E. Public Parks and Greenspace
- F. Water Quality

**Goal 3: Economic Prosperity in Place**

The Port shall support anti-displacement solutions that enable the Duwamish Valley Community to thrive in place through equitable access to training, jobs, career pathways, and Port-related economic opportunities. The Port’s action areas include, but are not limited to:

- A. Recruiting and Retention
- B. Youth and Adult Workforce Development
- C. Economic Development
- D. Support for an Equitable, Diverse, and Green Economy

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST**

- (1) Resolution No. 3767
- (2) Resolution No. 3767 Exhibit A: Duwamish Valley Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive

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**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

November 19, 2019 – Commission introduction of Resolution 3767, Duwamish Valley  
Community Benefits Commitment Policy Directive

October 29, 2019 – Energy and Sustainability Committee approves Introduction of the  
Policy Direction to the full Commission

May 28, 2019 – Commission establishment of Motion 2017-07, Duwamish Valley  
Community Equity Program

April 10, 2018 – Commission authorization for funding to continue EPA Pilot Project  
activities with the Community