

Seattle Green new Deal Oversight Board

DRAFT

October 17, 2022

E-Distributed

Mayor Bruce Harrell
2023 Select Budget Committee Chair Teresa Mosqueda
2023 Select Budget Committee Members

Re: Green New Deal Oversight Board Comments on the Mayor's 2023 Budget

Dear Mayor Bruce Harrell, Select Budget Committee Chair Teresa Mosqueda, and Council Members,

Thank you, Mayor Harrell, for fully considering our Green New Deal Oversight Board (GNDOB) funding recommendations in the proposed 2023 GND Budget.

We are concurrently sending this letter to you Mayor Harrell, Select Budget Committee Chair Mosqueda, all Councilmembers, and our communities in the interest of transparency and accountability. We take our role seriously as the GND Oversight Board to steward the Jump Start GND revenue by ensuring that funding allocations are aligned with GND Ordinance's legislative intent and direction.

We want to preface our comments with the following listed below, fully mindful that when Council introduces the 2023 Jump Start legislation, we will comment accordingly :

- We made our 2023 GND recommendations based on the GND Ordinance pillars of climate change greenhouse gas reduction by 2030, community resiliency, and economic inclusion, and the following criteria as shared with the Mayor and his staff:
 1. Center Racial & Social Equity ensuring that benefits and investments are priorities for frontline communities,
 2. Have alignment of community interest or be adapted to incorporate the needs, assets, and preferences of frontline communities,
 3. Have impact with efficacy being tracked, measured, and demonstrated
 4. Build Capacity for community leaders, organizations, the GND Board and City staff,
 5. Are feasible and scalable.
- We understand the unusual extenuating circumstances of the City's \$140M shortfall that led to the use of Jump Start taxes to cover the gap. We are aware that the action reduced available dollars for GND and other target areas. However, we are extremely concerned that the Jump Start GND dollars will be used by the City as a convenient bank account to cover shortfalls. We ask the Council to put guardrails to protect the integrity of the Jump Start fund overall, and in particular, the GND portion as the climate change crisis is ongoing and accelerating, and its intent to address historic racial and social inequities. It should not be compromised for "other" crises. The guardrails will also affirm the City's intent to honor its commitment to Jump Start voters and contributing employers.

To that end, we prepared the attached 2023 GNDOB one pager that we will use as references for our comments below:

1. Overall, the Mayor's 2023 Budget reflects 16 of 19 budget items as aligned with the GND Ordinance and GNDOB recommendations while 3 of the 19 do not align with Green New Deal Ordinance,
2. We understand and support:
 - I. the transfer of funding for item 1: Duwamish River Opportunity Fund from the Department of Neighborhood (DON) to GND funding because of the need for multi-year, not one year funding.
 - II. the consolidation of Climate and Green New Deal staff with OSE as reflected in funding for item 2: Climate Justice Workforce Development Advisor.

We notice that there is **no** fund allocation for indigenous led sustainability projects outside Duwamish Valley programs. We ask that \$ ____ funding be allocated for _____ indigenous projects.

3. Item 6 needs to align with GND race and social justice criteria more closely. We ask the Council to restrict Clean Buildings Accelerator & Building Emissions Performance Standards engineering support and capital spending to under-resourced buildings.
4. Items 8: Outreach to Downtown Mobility Planning (\$350,000), 9: Sound Transit Planning (Strategic Advisor 1 for West Seattle Ballard link Light Rail Extension (\$162,396), and 12: Sound Transit's West Seattle and Ballard Link Extension (\$2,554,824) for a grand total of \$3,067,220 are not aligned with the GND Ordinance because it is not centered on GND racial and social equity. These items were commitments made prior to the passage of Jump Start Taxes and the GND Ordinance.

We ask the Council to:

- i. recognize the GND race and social equity misalignment,
 - ii. fund items 8, 9, 12 with federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and/or state Climate Commitments Act (CCA) funding, and
 - iii. hold the \$3,067,220 funds in reserve for GNDOB prioritization for funding recommendations in 2023.
5. It also appears that items 18: Seattle Parks municipal Building Decarbonization and Resilience Hubs (\$3,500,000) and 19: Seattle Libraries Municipal Building Decarbonization and Resilience (\$3,500,000) for a total of \$7,000,000 were prioritized prematurely without benefit of the results of the 2022 community resiliency hubs study. We ask that these funds be held in reserve.
6. We ask the Council to fund the GNDOB 2023 recommended budget items that were not included in the Mayor's 2023 Budget proposal from Item 8 funds, namely:
 - I. Energy efficiency program for low-middle income households (\$1M)
 - II. Climate change education and awareness program (\$1M)
 - III. Research for single family rentals (\$150,000)

In summary, we ask the Council to hold \$7,917,220 or 38% of the GND Jump Start Taxes in reserve for 2023 GNDOB prioritization and funding recommendations.

We are grateful to the Mayor, the Office of Sustainability & Environment, and his Budget staff's assistance and support during our steep learning curve and deliberations.

We look forward to the 2023 Select Budget Committee's full consideration of our requests to ensure alignment with the Council's GND Ordinance to eliminate greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, address climate change impacts on frontline communities, provide for economic inclusion initiatives, and maintain the integrity of Green New Deal Jump Start Taxes funding.

We also wish to partner with the Mayor and the City Council to co-advocate for the funding of the GNOB priorities from BIL, IRA and CCA funds that respectively have a Justice 40 (%) and 35-40% funding goal for impacted BIPOC communities.

We are happy to meet at your convenience. Please enter this letter as part of public comment. We look forward to a positive response. Salamat po.

Respectfully,

Andrea Ornelas, Labor Union Representative
Debolina Banerjee, Environmental Justice Representative, Seattle Citywide Member-at-Large
Dennis Comer, Environmental Justice Representative Central Area Neighborhood District
Emily Myers, Labor Union Representative
Hibol Sahal, Frontline Representative
Jess Wallach, GHG Reduction & Climate Resiliency Representative
Ken Workman, Tribal Representative
Keith Weir, Labor Union Representative
Kristina Chu, Youth Representative
Maria Batayola, Frontline Representative Beacon Hill, Co-Chair
Matt Remle, Frontline Representative
Nina Olivier, GHG Reduction & Climate Resiliency Representative
Peter Hasegawa, Labor Union Representative
Rachel Heaton, Tribal Representative
Steve Gelb, Workforce Training Specialist
Syrus Valentin, Youth Representative, Co-Chair
Tomas Madrigal, Frontline Representative

c: Lylia Allala, Climate Director, Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
Community Members

October 17, 2022 Attachment to
2023 GND Budget Oversight Board Comment Letter

Number	MAYOR'S GND BUDGET PROPOSAL	2023	2024
1	Duwamish River Opportunity Fund	\$200,000	\$400,000
2	Climate Justice Workforce Development Advisor	\$160,285	\$186,186
3	Clean Energy Pre-apprenticeship Scholarships	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
4	Low-Income Oil Heat to Heat Pump Conversions	\$1,850,820	\$1,879,015
5	Oil to Heat Pump Conversions - Middle Income Rebates	\$800,000	\$803,000
6	Clean Buildings Accelerators & Building Emissions Performance Standards	\$3,029,741	\$8,032,379
7	Municipal Electric Charging Stations	\$646,775	\$1,286,235
8	Outreach to Downtown Mobility Planning	\$350,000	\$0
9	Sound Transit Planning (Strategic Advisor 1 for West Seattle Ballard link Light Rail Extension)	\$162,396	\$162,396
10	Incentives for Heavy Duty Electric Vehicles	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
11	SDOT Pocket Transfer - Citywide Coordinator for Climate Initiatives	\$189,710	\$189,710
12	Sound Transit's West Seattle and Ballard link Extension	\$2,554,824	\$4,158,021
13	Duwamish Valley Youth Leadership	\$500,000	\$500,000
14	Greening Equity Focus Areas	\$300,000	\$300,000
15	Tree Canopy Equity & Resilience Plan	\$150,000	\$0
16	Environmental Justice Fund	\$550,000	\$550,000
17	Duwamish River Opportunity Fund	\$249,799	\$249,799
18	Municipal Building Decarbonization and Resilience (Parks)	\$3,500,000	\$0
19	Municipal Building Decarbonization and Resilience (Seattle Public Library)	\$3,500,000	\$0
	TOTAL	\$20,694,350	\$20,696,741

