



Environmental Justice Advisory Board

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Better World Group (BWG) has prepared this FAQ to help interested applicants navigate the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (referred hereafter as the Advisory Board) application process. This FAQ is a living document and will be updated throughout the duration of the application period as new questions arise.

1. What is the expected time commitment for members on the Advisory Board?

Advisory Board members will spend approximately 15-20 hours per quarter (roughly 60-80 hours per year) actively participating on the Advisory Board.

Members will meet quarterly for three (3) years beginning Spring 2024. BWG intends to host two Advisory Board meetings virtually and two meetings in-person (with hybrid capabilities) each year. Advisory Board members are expected to prepare for each session by reviewing materials and may be asked to attend additional meetings outside of the quarterly schedule, as needed.

By applying to join the Advisory Board, you confirm your ability to fully and meaningfully participate for a minimum of one year to fulfill the above-mentioned activities.

2. What if I can't serve the full three years on the Advisory Board?

If a member is unable to serve the full three-year term, BWG will seek a replacement. BWG will first seek replacements among top scoring applicants from the first round of applications.

3. What if I can't attend the kick-off meeting in person?

The Advisory Board's first session will take place on May 29, 2024 at CNRA's headquarters located in Sacramento via **hybrid** format. Attendance at the Advisory Board's first session is mandatory, and participants can either attend in person or remotely via Zoom.

Attending Advisory Board meetings in-person is optional, but highly encouraged. In-person meetings are meant to support knowledge exchange and deeper connection between Advisory Board members, facilitators, and Ocean Protection Council (OPC) staff.

4. What is the timeline to hear back about my application?

The Environmental Justice Advisory Board application will close on Friday, February 23, 2024. Advisory Board members will be notified of selection by the end of March 2024.

5. My employer is an OPC grantee and/or intends to apply for OPC grants in the future. Can I still apply?

Current OPC grantees or those employed by OPC grantees may be eligible to apply. All applicants, however, must conform with section 87104 of the Political Reform Act (as outlined in the application [information sheet](#)). The applicant should communicate any concerns and seek direction from the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) if selected for the Advisory Board.

Future OPC grantees may also be eligible to apply. However, pursuant section 87104 of the Political Reform Act, Advisory Board members may not appear before or communicate with OPC on behalf of their company or organization in order to influence grants or contracts related to OPC programs. While an Advisory Board member cannot personally influence OPC grants or contracts that benefit their or a spouse's company, the company or organization may have other employees communicate with OPC about a grant or contract. In such cases, Advisory Board members should recuse themselves from advice or activity that could be directly or indirectly related to the grant or contract in question.

If you believe you have a potential conflict of interest, or any concerns at all, you are urged to immediately discuss these concerns with BWG, who may direct you to the FPPC to ensure all potential conflicts are properly resolved. In certain instances, an Advisory Board member may be disqualified or be required to recuse themselves from specific topics brought before the Advisory Board.

6. Can I apply to the Advisory Board if I am a state and/or government employee?

State employees are not encouraged to apply given it would not meet the intended purpose of this Advisory Board to increase community and tribal engagement.

However, applicants that are employed by a public government entity, such as a local or regional government agency, may be eligible to apply, given the individual's community connections, experience, and expertise aligns with the intended purpose of this Advisory Board. BWG and government employees must consider the employing agency's incompatible activities statement or conflict of interest policies prior to confirming participation on the Advisory Board.

7. Can I apply to the Advisory Board if I am a registered state lobbyist?

Individuals registered as state lobbyists or members of Political Action Committees (PACs) are not encouraged to apply due to issues regarding impartiality and conflicts of interests, which would not meet the intended purpose of this Advisory Board to increase community and tribal engagement.

8. Where can I learn more?

Please review [Important EJ Advisory Board Information](#) to learn more about the EJ Advisory Board's purpose, role, and membership information. Direct any additional questions and requests to ejadvisoryboard-app@betterworldgroup.com.