



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #830 | August 19, 2022

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members, partners and friends while supporting PNWA's advocacy efforts. [Bronze](#), [Silver](#), [Gold and Platinum levels](#) are available. Sign up online when you [register for the conference](#) or [contact Randi Besser](#).

FY2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grants Available

FEMA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) FY2022.

[BRIC FY2022](#)

Available funding for the NOFO: \$2,295,000,000

- State/Territory Allocation Subtotal: \$112,000,000
- Tribal Set-Aside Subtotal: \$50,000,000
- National Competition Subtotal: \$2,133,000,000

All inquiries and pre-applications should be sent to jessi.weaver@oem.oregon.gov, with "BRIC FY2022" in the subject line.

See the [FEMA schedule](#) for important dates and deadlines.

Environmental Justice Scorecard

In the August 3rd [Federal Register](#), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a public request for information on the vision, framework and outcomes of their Environmental Justice (EJ) Scorecard. Comments are requested by October 3rd.

The Presidential Executive Order #14008 on *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, mandates the development of performance measures for an annual EJ Scorecard, which will be aimed at detailing the efforts of the Federal Government to address historic and current environmental injustices.

Initially, the EJ Scorecard will focus on three main categories: (1) to reduce harms and burdens borne disproportionately by communities, (2) to deliver investment benefits, and (3) to undertake institutional reform to center community voices in decision-making.

When submitting comments, be sure to include:

- The name of the individual(s) or entity responding
- A brief description of the responding individual(s) or entity's mission or areas of expertise
- A contact for questions or other follow-up on your response

Comments must be identified by docket number CEQ-2022-0004 and may be submitted by any of the following options:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the directions to submit comments
- By fax to 202–456–6546
- By mail to: Council on Environmental Quality, 730 Jackson Place NW, Washington, DC 20503

For additional information, contact Sharmila Murthy via email (Sharmila.L.Murthy@ceq.eop.gov) or by phone at 202-395-5750.

Washington State Freight System Plan

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recently released a draft version of the [Washington State Freight System Plan](#). PNWA members are encouraged to review the plan and its appendices and provide comments directly to FreightPlan@wsdot.wa.gov that will help improve and finalize the plan.

The deadline to submit comments is August 31, 2022. Comments should include the section, page number, and line number to which you are referring, and specific recommendations are most useful.

2023 Lewis and Clark Bridge Closure

In 2023, the Lewis and Clark Bridge (also known as the Rainier Bridge) on State Route 433 between Longview, Washington and Rainier, Oregon will fully close for six days for repairs and preservation work. The exact dates are still to be determined.

Crews will replace two bridge expansion joints, one joint on the north end of the bridge and one on the south. The full closure is needed to safely conduct this work.

Because a full bridge closure is disruptive, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) conducted a survey to help determine how to best minimize the travel effects during the closure. They will include the comments in their planning effort, and have committed to running the Wahkiakum County Ferry twice per hour all day, for the duration of the closures.

For additional information on this planned closure, visit [SR 433 Lewis and Clark Bridge Finger Joint Replacement Project](#).

The Future of Aviation in Washington State

The demand for aviation services in Washington State is growing and will soon exceed the capacity of some of the most highly used existing facilities. The [Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission](#) (CACC), was created by the Washington Legislature to recommend strategies to address these growing aviation needs.

The public is invited to a [virtual open house](#) and [public meetings](#), about the future of

aviation in Washington State. Community members are invited to learn more about efforts to address demand through existing airports in the state or a new airport location. Input may be provided through an online open house, available August 15 through September 9, or two public meetings on August 23 and August 31.

The commission is considering environmental effects, economic and technical criteria, public feedback and opinion as it develops recommendations to improve Washington's air transportation capacity. The CACC is studying both short and long-term strategies to address air passenger service, air cargo operations and general aviation capacity needs. This is an opportunity for the state to consider how to meet capacity limits while also planning for the use of innovative technologies and the concept of an airport of the future within the state's aviation system. Incorporating innovative technologies could result in the increased use of sustainable aviation fuels, clean energy production at airports, and significantly reduced harmful emissions and noise from airplanes while providing additional commercial air service to more airports around the state.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District Hiring Engineers

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (District) is currently accepting applications for engineers. As the largest irrigation district in Washington State, the District has authorization to deliver to 472,000 acres. Currently, the District delivers to approximately 170,000 acres from their headquarters in Othello, WA.

Engineers at the District have opportunities to work on a vast range of projects. Working in collaboration with other departments, they will be involved as projects go from planning to implementation. The critical work that is accomplished by District employees is crucial to maintaining water deliveries to landowners, and to building infrastructure to increase the supply of irrigation water to relieve the pressure on a declining aquifer.

Click [here](#) for additional information on these open positions.

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