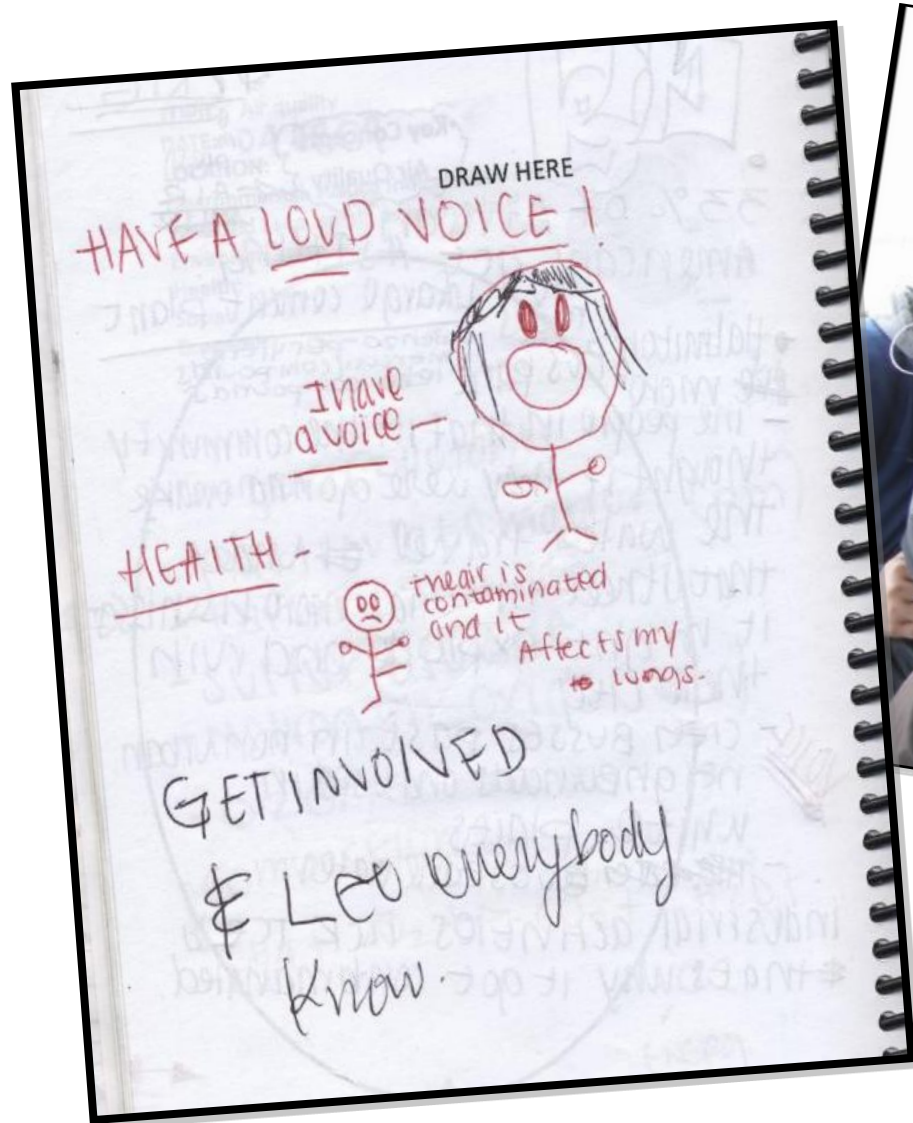


# What is Environmental Justice?

## The Duwamish River Superfund Site



The Lower Duwamish Waterway was declared a Superfund Site in 2001 because of chemicals in the sediments (or mud) that can harm people and the environment.



Learning about the Duwamish, your neighborhood and being part of deciding what happens there is what brings change.



PCBs\* and other chemicals are found in the soils in South Park, a community that is more exposed to contamination than other neighborhoods in Seattle. This is not fair. Everyone should enjoy the same degree of protection.  
\*PCB is short for Polychlorinated biphenyl

### RACE, INCOME AND POLLUTION

Exposure to pollution is more prevalent in Seattle communities with lower income level and larger minority populations. There are concerns about the cumulative health effects of exposure to pollution from businesses, highways and cleanup sites.

#### KEY TO RACE AND INCOME

By census tract 2000

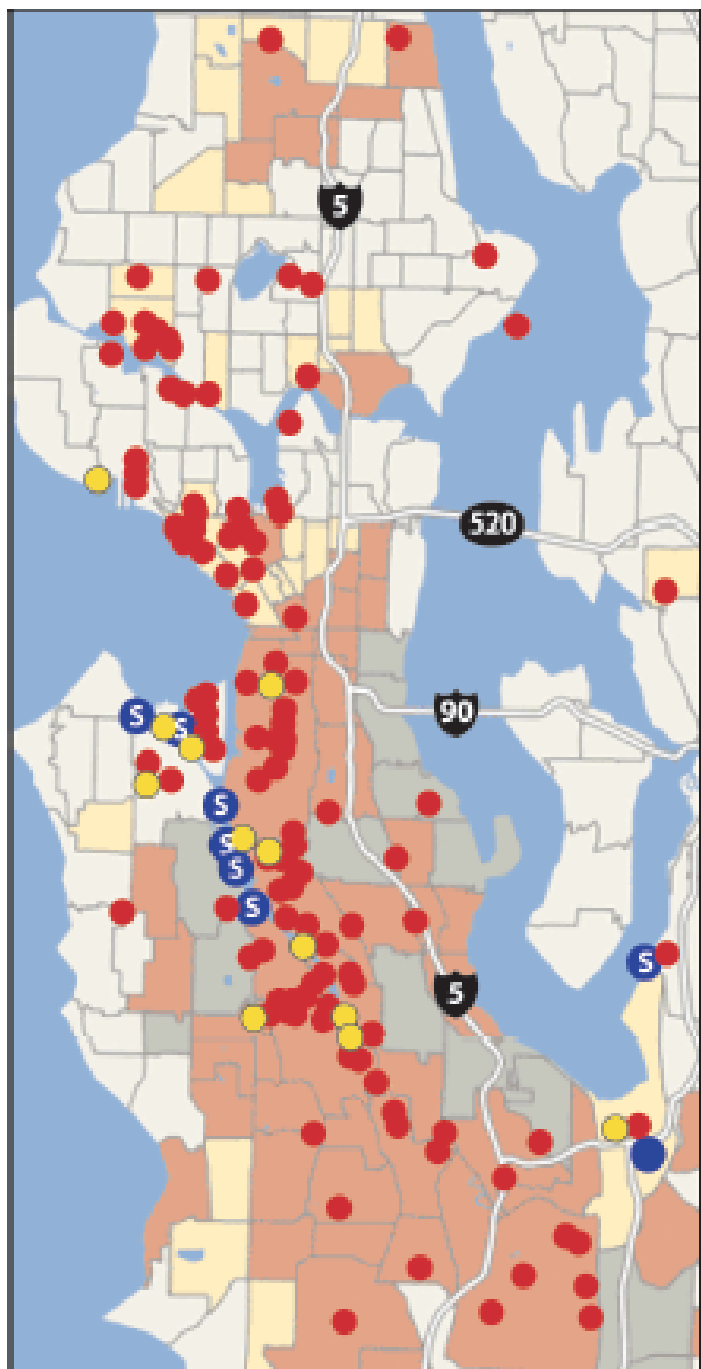
- Lower income, minority\*
- Lower income, white
- Higher income, minority
- Higher income, white

#### \*DEFINITIONS

Lower income: neighborhoods with household incomes below Seattle's average of \$45,736. Minority: Neighborhoods with the percentage of minority households above the Seattle average of 30 percent.

#### KEY TO TOXIC SITES

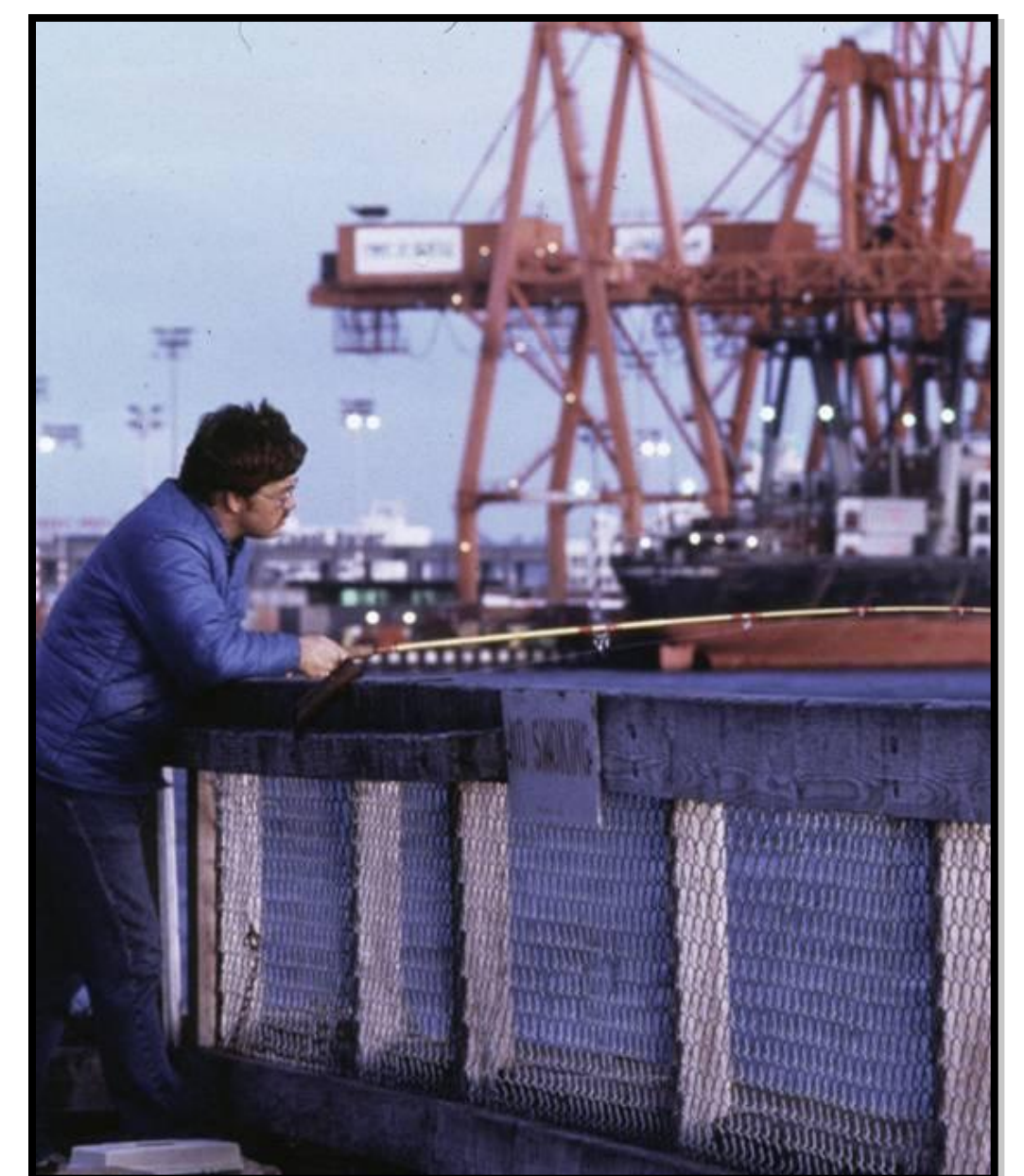
- Red circle: Sites that use and produce large amounts of toxic chemicals
- Yellow circle: Sites that store, treat or dispose of hazardous waste
- Blue circle with 'S': Superfund cleanup site
- Blue circle with 'U': Under consideration for Superfund cleanup



Source: King County, US Census 2000, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice

\*Toxic burden for poor, minorities and EPA looks set to ease remedy efforts' by Lisa Sommer Seattle Post-Intelligencer August 26, 2005

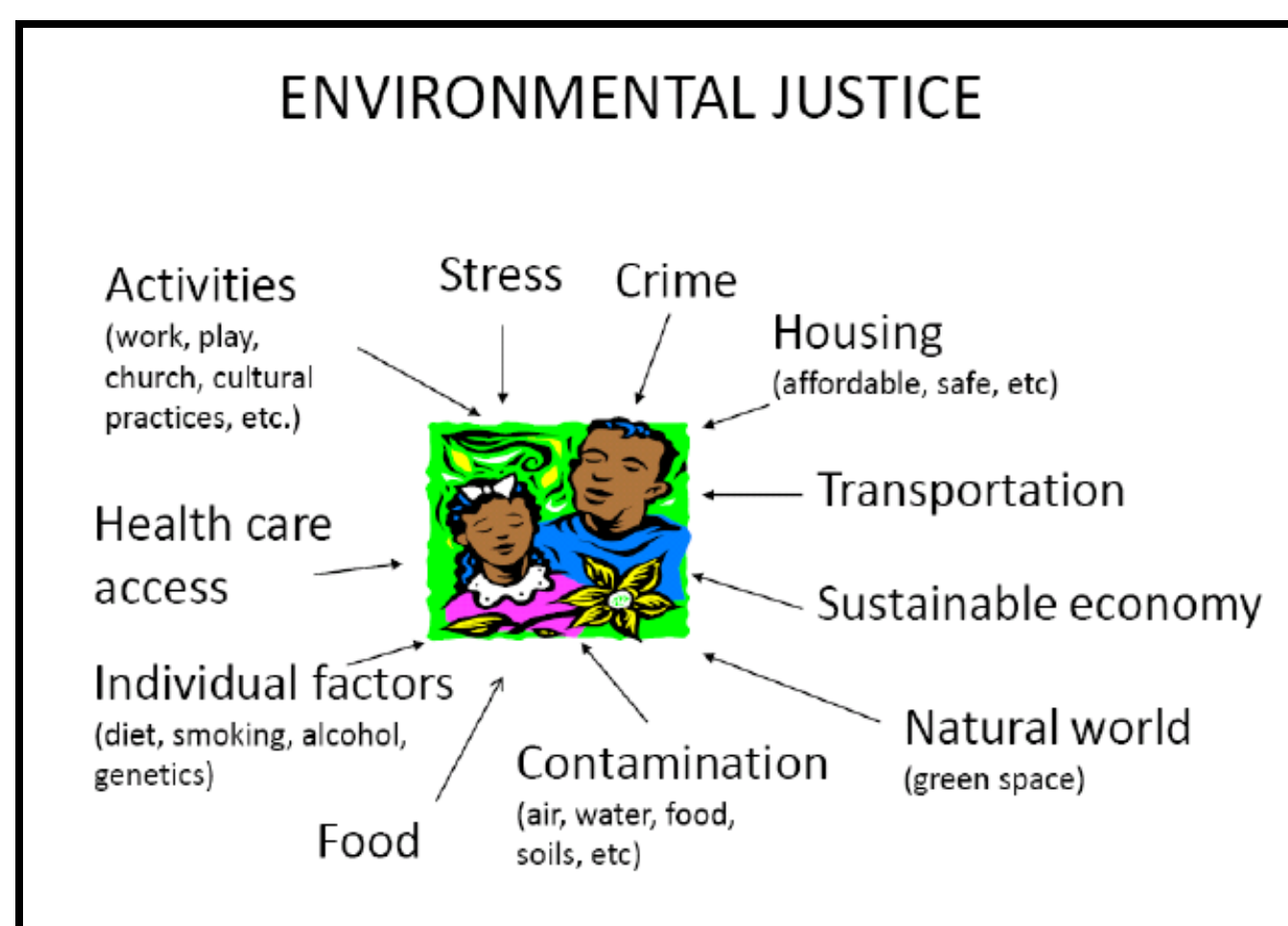
Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.  
(EPA Region 10)



Duwamish bottom fish and shell fish are contaminated and not safe to eat, some tribal members and immigrant communities indicate they will continue to eat from the river as part of their culture. No group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or a socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of environmental hazards.



When there is a big rain or storm, sewers and storm drains overflow into the river, adding to the contamination. They need to be controlled. These types of pollution often impact minority and low income communities more than other communities.



The environment is everything: where we live, work, play, go to school, as well as the physical and natural world. And so we can't separate the physical environment from the cultural environment.  
(Robert Bullard, 1999)



Children and babies in the womb are especially vulnerable to environmental stress of all kinds.

