



Board of Environmental Safety 2025-2026 Activities and Engagements

This document provides a recap of the Board's work during 2025 and 2026. It summarizes the key meetings, engagements, and decisions undertaken in support of the Board's mission and responsibilities. These efforts support the Board's work to rebuild public trust in DTSC by improving DTSC's transparency, accountability, and fiscal stability.

Board Meetings, Site-Specific Hearings, and Workshops

BES Webpage: [Past Meetings](#) and [Upcoming Meetings](#)

- January 29, 2025 – Hybrid Workshop, Sacramento: BES Metrics Public Workshop Review of Proposed Metrics of the Hazardous Waste Management Program
- January 30, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento
- March 19-20, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Fresno City Hall, including Hazardous Waste Management Plan Hearing #1
- April 24, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, DTSC Berkeley Regional Office, including Hazardous Waste Management Plan Hearing #2
- May 15, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, DTSC Cypress Regional Office, including Hazardous Waste Management Plan Hearing #3
- June 17, 2025 – Virtual Workshop, Joint DTSC and BES Fee Workshop
- July 14-15, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento, including Hazardous Waste Management Plan Hearing #4
- August 27, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento
- October 29, 2025 – Virtual Webinar: 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan Webinar
- November 17, 2025 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento
- February 5-6, 2026 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento
- April 27-28, 2026 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Montebello City Council, including a Site-Specific Hearing on the Exide
- Cleanup which included presentations from DTSC staff, US EPA, the Exide Technologies Advisory Group (ETAG) Technical Advisor, and the ETAG Co-Chair and Representative of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice.
- June 24-25, 2026 Board Meeting – Hybrid, DTSC Cypress Regional Office
- July 23, 2026 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento
- (scheduled) August 26-27, 2026 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento
- (scheduled) October 21-22, 2026 Permit Appeal Hearing for Phibro-Tech, Inc. – Hybrid, Montebello City Council Chambers
- (scheduled) December 14, 2026 Board Meeting – Hybrid, Sacramento

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

The Board engaged with various members of the public regarding BES-mandated areas, including regular engagement efforts. For example, in no particular order:

- **Hazardous Waste Management Plan-** held engagement meetings with:
 - Granada Hills Residents;
 - California Communities Against Toxics;
 - California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB);
 - National Diversity Coalition (NDC);
 - Hazardous Waste Coalition;
 - Earthjustice;
 - Golden Gate University Law & Environmental Justice Legal Clinic/Central; and
 - California Environmental Justice Coalition
- **Hazardous Waste Management Program (HWMP) Metrics-** held engagement meetings with:
 - CCEEB;
 - Earthjustice;
 - Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA); and
 - Albion Bridge Stewards
- **Safer Consumer Products (SCP) Metrics-** held engagement discussions with:
 - Past Green Ribbon Science Panel members;
 - Past DTSC leadership;
 - CCEEB;
 - California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative;
 - NRDC;
 - BCPP;
 - Green Science Policy Institute; and
 - Wolf Sustainability
- **Kettleman Hills Facility-**
 - Supervisor Valle Kettleman City Townhall Meeting
 - Facilitated discussions between facility and community to hear and respond to community concerns.
- **Exide meetings-**
 - Bi-weekly Working Group meetings;
 - Bi-annual public meetings; and
 - Bi-annual Exide Technologies Advisory Group (ETAG) public meetings.
- **DTSC Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC)-**
 - Board Chair, EJAC Co-Chairs, DTSC Director to discuss the EJAC Workplan, Framework, and Operational guidelines.
 - Regular check-in meetings of DTSC EJAC Co-Chairs and BES EJAC Subcommittee.
- **Metal Shredder Fees-** held discussions with the CA Metal Recyclers Coalition regarding DTSC's fee development.
- **Radius Recycling Facility-** engaged with the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.
- **2026 California Unified Program Annual (CUPA) Conference**
- **Los Angeles Environmental Justice and Enforcement Symposium**

Hazardous Waste Management Plan (Plan)

BES Webpage: [Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#)

- DTSC's first draft Plan was released in March 2025.
- BES conducted four public hearings across different regions (Central Valley, Bay Area, Cypress, and Sacramento) to elicit input on the draft Plan.
- BES engaged extensively with both the regulated community and community organizations to ensure a balanced and inclusive process. Please refer to the 'Stakeholder and Community Engagement' section for specific stakeholders BES engaged with.
- The Board provided revisions and direction to DTSC regarding the 2025 Plan.
- The Board approved DTSC's 2025 Plan in November 2025 and expressed that they wish to retain continued oversight of its implementation to respond to the concerns raised by members of the public.
- The HWMP Subcommittee continues to meet monthly with DTSC staff regarding 2025 Plan implementation, and DTSC presents regular updates on progress at Board meetings.

Hazardous Waste Fee Setting and Fee Structure Reforms

BES Webpage: [Hazardous Waste Fee Setting](#)

- For FY 2025-26, after convening a joint DTSC/BES Fees Workshop and reviewing DTSC's finance and budget information, the Board approved fee rate schedule and fee limits in August 2025, for the Facility Fee, Generation & Handling Fee, and Environmental Fee.
- The Board's Fees Analysis Subcommittee is currently working on an analysis and recommendations for future fee structure reform. The Board's Fees Analysis Subcommittee has received two reports from UMass Lowell on policy considerations that would generate sustainable revenue streams and plans to continue engagement with UMass Lowell in the development of fee reform recommendations.
- For FY 2026-27, the Board's Fees Subcommittee is currently evaluating the fee rate schedule and fee limits, for the Facility Fee, Generation & Handling Fee, and the Environmental fee for adoption at the August 2026 Board meeting.

Director's Priorities

BES links: [FY 2024-25 Priorities](#); [FY 2025-26 Priorities](#)

- The Director prepares her annual Department priorities based on the fiscal year and presents them to the Board at the July Board meeting. Public comment and board discussion regarding the Director's priorities are also heard at this time.
- Following the July Board meeting, the Director meets with each Board member to receive any additional comments or recommendations for consideration.
- The Board adopts the Director's final priorities through a vote at the August Board meeting.
- The Director provides Priorities Progress Report updates to the Board at all remaining public Board meetings for the fiscal year.
- Throughout the fiscal year, Board Staff tracks progress of the Director's Priorities.

Annual Evaluation of DTSC

BES Webpage: [BES Evaluation of DTSC for Fiscal Year 2024-25](#)

- Per SB 158, BES conducts annual evaluations of DTSC. The evaluation is conducted by the full Board and BES staff and assesses whether DTSC has met its objectives and performance metrics.
- After presenting the Board's Evaluation at a public meeting, a 30-day window opens to allow members of the public to submit written comments, which are appended to the final evaluation document and transmitted to the Secretary for Environmental Protection.
- In 2025, BES evaluated the FY 2024-25 performance of the Director and Department. As of January 2026, DTSC achieved 30 of its 39 sub-deliverables.
- BES gave DTSC leadership several recommendations to help improve performance and organizational results.
- BES's FY 2024-25 Evaluation of DTSC was approved by the Board at the February 5, 2026 public meeting.
- Initial planning of the FY 2025-26 Evaluation has begun, with tentative completion scheduled for December 2026.

Metric Setting / Performance Metrics and Dashboard

BES Webpage: [Performance Metrics Evaluation](#)

- The metrics subcommittees continue to collaborate with DTSC to co-develop measurable performance indicators for each of the Department's major programs.
- In November 2025, the Board adopted six metrics for the Hazardous Waste Management Program and is currently working to publish metrics data on the BES website.
- A BES subcommittee is currently advancing metrics development for Safer Consumer Products program.

Permitting Appeals Regulations – Standing Orders, Forms and Procedural Rules

BES Webpage: [Permit Appeals](#)

Upon its inception, the Board of Environmental Safety approved changes to Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Those regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and filed with the Secretary of State on May 1, 2023, which repealed certain sections and added new sections (for details regarding the Board's Permit Appeal regulations, visit <https://bes.dtsc.ca.gov/permit-appeals-regulations/>.)

The Board repealed its Standing Order 24-01 and adopted new Standing Order 25-01 at its meeting on November 17, 2025. The key changes introduced in Standing Order 25-01 include:

- Introduction of a new Appeal Management Form and the establishment of a meet-and-confer process.
- Clarification of “public access” by requiring administrative record materials to be organized according to the index, Bates-numbered, and accessible in a manner that enables the public to reasonably locate, inspect, and review the record.
- Establishes that the Board will not consider an Initial Order until the administrative record is complete.

The Board currently has four active permit appeals before them as of 2025:

- Phibro-Tech, Inc., Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
 - Neighbors Against Phibro-Tech appeal filed March 26, 2025
 - Phibro-Tech, Inc facility appeal filed March 27, 2025
- Ecobat Resources California Inc., Hazardous Waste Facility Permit [Operating Permit]
 - Pro Se Appellant #1 appeal filed December 1, 2025
 - Earthjustice on behalf of Clean Air Coalition (CAC) of North Whittier and Avocado Heights appeal filed December 17, 2025
 - Pro Se Appellant #2 appeal filed December 22, 2025
- Ecobat Resources California Inc., Hazardous Waste Facility Permit [Post-Closure Permit]
 - Pro Se Appellant #1 appeal filed December 4, 2025
 - Pro Se Appellant #2 appeal filed December 22, 2025
- Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, Inc., Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
 - Clean Harbors Buttonwillow facility appeal filed July 14, 2026

Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) Framework and Engagement

DTSC Webpage: [EJAC](#)

- DTSC’s EJAC Framework outlines the structure, objectives and scope of the council. The EJAC amplifies community voices, providing independent recommendations to DTSC and the Board.
- To maintain clear communication and transparency, the Board Chair has been designated as the primary point of contact for regular communication with the EJAC.

- The EJAC Chair or their designee has the opportunity to present information to the Board at the Board's public meetings.
- The Board's Environmental Justice subcommittee meets regularly with EJAC co-chairs, to provide the EJAC with support and discuss/coordinate opportunities to collaborate on environmental justice issues that the EJAC has received.
- The inaugural meeting of the EJAC took place on June 30, 2025 with six total meetings taking place through 2025/26.
- DTSC is currently recruiting for two member vacancies, with the BES Executive Officer participating on the selection committee's review panel.
- BES staff presented at EJAC public meetings on July 23, 2025 and May 27, 2026.

Ombuds Program

BES Webpage: [Ombuds](#)

- The Board established an Ombuds Program under SB 158; the Ombuds continues to provide intake and guidance, handling concerns about DTSC work; helps ensure fairness and transparency.
- The Ombuds reports recommendations, findings, and trends as appropriate throughout the year, and provides an annual summary to the Board and DTSC's Director.
- The Ombuds responded to 79 public inquiries in 2025, and 21 public inquiries so far in 2026.

Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI) Review

BES Webpage: [BES 24/25 CVCI Annual Report](#)

- BES conducted their annual Evaluation of DTSC's performance on the CVCI effort, assessed spending and outcomes, and made recommendations for future cleanup initiatives.
- The Board approved the 24/25 analysis report at the February 5, 2026 public meeting.
- Pre-planning for the 25/26 CVCI analysis has begun; the new report is expected to complete in the first quarter of 2027.

Oversight of Exide Cleanup Progress

- BES continues to monitor and engage with DTSC, community groups, and technical advisors on Exide cleanup completion; BES staff continue to attend the bi-weekly Exide Working Group meetings.

- In June 2025 and June 2026, Board and staff toured the former Exide facility and residential cleanup.
- At the April 2026 Board meeting, BES welcomed a collective update on Exide from DTSC, US EPA, the Exide Technologies Advisory Group (ETAG) Technical Advisor, and the ETAG Co-Chair and Representative of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice.

Site and Facility Tours

Board members and staff visited the following facilities and sites in 2025 and 2026:

- DTSC regulated sites:
 - Ecobat (City of Industry);
 - Phibro-Tech (Santa Fe Springs);
 - Chevron Richmond Refinery (Richmond);
 - Clean Harbors Buttonwillow Hazardous Waste Landfill (Buttonwillow); and
 - Kettleman City Hazardous Waste Landfill (Kettleman City)
- Exide Cleanup Site.
- Newby Island Landfill, a municipal solid waste facility (Milpitas).
- SA Recycling, a metal shredder facility (San Pedro).

Continued Permits

BES Webpage: [Hazardous Waste Operating Facilities Permit Decision Status Reports and Addendums](#)

- **Chevron Environmental Management Company (Richmond)** – Board approved proposed schedule at January 2025 Board meeting.
- **Chemical Waste Management, Inc. Kettleman Hills Facility (Kettleman Hills)** – Board approved modified schedule at March 2025 Board meeting and approved proposed schedule at February 2026 Board meeting.
- **Ecobat Resources California, Inc. (City of Industry)** – Board approved proposed schedules at January, July, and November 2025 Board meetings.
- **Glencore Recycling, LLC. (San Jose)** – Board approved proposed schedule at the August 2025 Board meeting.
- **Clean Harbors Buttonwillow, LLC. (Buttonwillow)** – Board approved proposed schedule at the April 2026 Board meeting.
- **J&B Refining, Inc. (Santa Clara)** – Board approved proposed schedule at the July 2026 Board meeting.