



2026 Priorities

1. Public Board Meetings/Workshops

- Public Meetings: Conduct 6-7 hybrid Board meetings, three of which must be held outside of Sacramento,ⁱ and hold several workshops throughout the year.
- Promote high public attendance to foster transparency and accountability. Board meetings are the primary platform for public engagement with the Board and DTSC leadership on key priorities. They enable the public to hear directly from DTSC leadership, provide input, and engage in decision making.

2. Ensure a Fair, Timely, and Transparent Permit Appeals Process

- Hear and decide appeals: Adjudicate appeals of hazardous waste facility permit decisions (appeals of decisions to grant, issue, modify, or deny a permit).ⁱⁱ
- The Board anticipates administering appeals of two to three new permitting decisions in 2026, in addition to the current docket of appeals of two past permitting decisions.
- Ensure that the permit appeals process is publicly accessible, including updating the BES website and working with DTSC in making administrative records digitally accessible to all parties.
- Respond to Public Record Act requests and litigation in a timely manner.

3. Hazardous Waste Fees

- Establish Fee Rates: Establish a schedule of fee rates required by regulation (generation & handling fee, facility fee, environmental fee) to ensure adequate funding for DTSC and Board operations.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Fee Structure Analysis: Beginning in 2026, BES will work with DTSC to conduct an analysis of the current fee structure based on the requirements in SB 158 and identify recommendations that, among other things:^{iv}

- Provide adequate funding for DTSC's programs and BES to achieve annual priorities and performance goals;
- Consider additional funding amounts or amending current fees or fee rates; and
- Fairly distribute fees among businesses contributing to hazardous waste management.
- Public Engagement: Hold public hybrid workshops to gather input on the Board's hazardous waste fee rate proposal and fee structure.

4. Performance Measurement & Strategic Planning

- Develop Performance Metrics for DTSC: Collaborate with DTSC to define and evaluate performance metrics for each DTSC program.^v
 - In 2026, work with DTSC to develop metrics for the Safer Consumer Products Program and the Site Mitigation & Restoration Program.
 - In 2026, work with DTSC to develop goals and begin tracking adopted Hazardous Waste Management Program (Permitting & Enforcement) metrics.

5. State Hazardous Waste Management Plan and Report

- Retain oversight of DTSC's implementation of the 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP) and assist DTSC in the development of the 2028 HWMP.
- Review documents and presentations related to DTSC's Hazardous Waste Management Plan, including the 2026 Report.

6. DTSC Strategic Planning

- Beginning in 2026, develop "a multiyear schedule for the discussion of long-term goals" for certain DTSC activities, in consultation with the Director and considering available resources.^{vi}
 - Promote alignment across long-term goals, Strategic Plan goals, Director Priorities, and performance metrics.
- Review and consider for approval DTSC Director's 2026-2027 Priorities. Receive regular progress reports from the DTSC Director at Board meetings on progress in achieving priorities.

7. Evaluation

- Annual Performance Review: Prepare annual reviews of DTSC's performance against FY 2024-2025 and FY 2025-2026 objectives and transmit to the Secretary for Environmental Protection.^{vii}
- Appear when requested before Legislative policy committees to provide an update on DTSC's performance as compared to its objectives.

8. Advance Meaningful Public Engagement and Participation

- Ensure early, transparent, and inclusive engagement, particularly in environmental justice communities, through outreach, site tours, and direct communication channels such as the Ombuds program and meetings with Board members.
 - Ombuds Program: Continue Ombuds Program outreach and engagement. Receive inquiries and respond as needed.^{viii}
 - Public Outreach: Engage with community members, organizations, and the regulated community through meetings and meaningful public communication.
 - Conduct site tours of facilities and cleanup sites.

9. Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)

- Monitor EJAC Progress: Hear updates on EJAC priorities and progress at regular Board meetings and through the Board's environmental justice subcommittee.
- Engage with EJAC to finalize its workplan and collaborate with EJAC on selected DTSC and BES priorities.

10. Cleanups in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI) Annual Report

- Analyze CVCI Expenditures: Analyze expenditures allocated to DTSC for CVCI against its seven objectives.^{ix}
 - Assess whether CVCI can continue supporting DTSC's Orphan Site program.
- Assess CVCI Performance: Evaluate the subsequent uses of investigated and/or cleaned-up sites.
- Provide Recommendations: Make recommendations to the Legislature for future cleanup initiatives.

11. Site-specific Engagement:

- Maintain ongoing engagement with the public and DTSC on Exide, Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), and other sites to ensure progress on cleanup goals.

12. Strengthen BES Team Effectiveness, Collaboration, and Performance:

Continue to grow BES team effectiveness through collaboration, coordination and team performance to support effective Board oversight and decision making.

- Foster a culture of accountability, mutual respect, and continuous improvement of BES team performance to serve the Board and public.
- Promote clarity, alignment and consistency in how BES carries out its responsibilities.
- Support effective collaboration and communication to enable timely and informed Board decisions.

ⁱ [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) section 25125.2, subd. \(a\)](#): “Beginning January 1, 2022, the board shall conduct no fewer than six public meetings per year, at least three of which shall be held outside the greater Sacramento area. For those meetings held outside the greater Sacramento area, the board shall meet in different geographic areas within the state to facilitate the participation by the businesses and sites regulated by the department, as well as members of the communities impacted by the businesses and sites regulated by the department.”

ⁱⁱ [HSC 25125.2\(b\)\(2\)](#): “Hear and decide appeals of hazardous waste facility permit decisions.”

ⁱⁱⁱ [HSC 25125.2\(b\)\(1\)](#): “Set fees pursuant to Sections [25205.2.1](#), [25205.5.01](#), and [25205.6.1](#).”

^{iv} [HSC 25125.2\(b\)\(5\)](#): “Conduct an analysis of the fee structure supporting the department’s activities funded by the Hazardous Waste Control Account, the Hazardous Waste Facilities Account, and the Toxic Substances Control Account and, to the extent necessary, develop recommendations for funding the department’s activities that accomplish [enumerated areas of analysis].”

^v [HSC 25125.2\(b\)\(4\)](#): “Review and consider for approval the director’s annual priorities for each program under the department and, after consulting with the director, adopt clear performance metrics for the department and each of the department’s programs.”

^{vi} [HSC 25125.2\(b\)\(7\)](#): “Develop, in consultation with the director and with consideration of available resources, a multiyear schedule for the discussion of long-term goals for the following departmental activities:

- (A) The department’s processing of hazardous waste facility permits and proposals to improve the efficiency of the permitting process, the relationship between the efficiency of the process and the time needed to review permit applications and reach permit decisions, and the amount of reimbursement required of permit applicants in the course of the permitting process.
- (B) The department’s duties and responsibilities in law and proposals to improve the department’s ability to meet those duties and responsibilities.
- (C) The site mitigation program and proposals for the prioritization of the cleanup of contaminated properties.
- (D) The department’s implementation of its enforcement activities.”

^{vii} [HSC 25125.7](#): “The board shall annually prepare and transmit to the Secretary for Environmental Protection an annual review of the department’s performance as compared to its objectives, including, but not limited to, the performance of the director.”

^{viii} [HSC 25125.8\(b\)](#): “The office of the ombudsperson shall serve as an impartial resource to the public, including stakeholders, by doing the following: (1) receive complaints and suggestions from the public. (2) Evaluate complaints. (3) Report findings and make recommendations to the director and the board. (4) Render assistance to the public, when appropriate.”

^{ix} [SB 158 \(2021\) Section 106\(e\)](#): “The Board of Environmental Safety shall conduct an analysis of the expenditure of funds allocated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control for the [Cleanup in Vulnerable Comm] on an annual basis until the funds have been entirely liquidated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. This analysis shall include the subsequent uses of the sites that have undergone investigation or cleanup in order to make recommendations to the Legislature on future expenditures of state funds for cleanup. In its analysis, the board shall also evaluate the public health benefits that those investigations or cleanups have created for the communities in which the sites are located.”