

California Board of Environmental Safety

DTSC Berkeley Regional Office Auditorium
700 Heinz Ave, Ste 200, Berkeley, CA 94710

Board Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2025

Board Members Present:

Chair: Andrew Rakestraw

Vice Chair: Alexis Strauss-Hacker

Member: Sushma Bhatia

Member: Ingrid Brostrom

Member: Georgette Gomez

BES Staff Present:

Swati Sharma, Executive Officer

Shayna Avila, Staff Engineer

Courtney Bailey, Board Specialist

Sheena Brooks, Operations and Outreach Mgr.

Lauren Chandler, Ombudsperson

Gregory Forest, Board Counsel

Evelyn Nuno, Board Specialist

Linda Ocampo, Senior Staff Engineer

Ferdous Pourmirza, Environmental Program Mgr.

Marcus Raymond, Senior Environmental Scientist

DTSC Staff Present:

Gradiva Couzin, Associate

Governmental Program Analyst

Ryan Dominguez, Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer

Spencer Eberhard, Environmental Scientist

Kayla Kuhl, Hazardous Substances Engineer

Gabriella Nepomuceno, Branch Chief, Hazardous Waste Management Program

April Ranney, Environmental Program Mgr.

Maria Soria, Manager, Enforcement and Emergency Response Division

Do you see an error in these minutes? Please email the BES Public Outreach Manager with your recommended edits to Sheena.Brooks@bes.dtsc.ca.gov.

YouTube video links: English <https://youtu.be/LeviUNY-nig> and Spanish <https://youtu.be/eKjK47teLg>

Public Comments will be posted in a separate document.

1 Call to Order, Roll Call and Establish Quorum [00:05:15] The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. and a quorum was established with all Board Members present. Board Member Brostrom joined the meeting remotely.

2 Welcome, Opening Remarks [00:11:28] Newly appointed Board Chair Rakestraw provided opening remarks. Vice Chair Hacker provided a brief permit appeal update, that two permit appeals have been filed in response to the final Hazardous Waste Facility permit that DTSC issued for the Phibro-Tech, Inc. facility.

3 Review, Discussion, and Possible Approval of Minutes [00:16:38] **Vice Chair Hacker** moved to approve the March 19, 2025, and March 20, 2025, meeting minutes.

Seconded by Member Gomez. The Motion passed with four ayes. Chair Rakestraw abstained.

4 DTSC Presentation on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) [00:17:34] Maria Soria, Enforcement and Emergency Response Division Manager, along with DTSC SEP Coordinator, Gradiva Couzin and Environmental Program Manager April Ranney, presented to the Board an introduction on SEPs, including examples of funded SEP projects.

The Board heard ten (10) public comments on this item.

5 Public Comments on BES Proposed Metrics for the Hazardous Waste Management Program [01:20:00] Executive Officer Swati Sharma reminded the public and stakeholders to continue submitting comments and feedback on the BES Metrics Subcommittee's proposed metrics for DTSC's Hazardous Waste Management Program through April 30, 2025. These metrics will be considered at the May 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

The Board heard eight (8) public comments on this item.

6 Public Forum [01:52:55]

The Board heard seven (7) public comments on this item.

7 Review Action Items [02:14:44] Vice Chair Hacker reviewed action items from today's Board Meeting and future items for consideration.

- DTSC representatives Maria Soria and April Ranney have invited the public to engage with them about SEPs. The Board will be inviting comments on the SEPs policy at a date still to be determined with an update provided at the Board's May Meeting.
- Lauren Chandler, BES Ombudsperson, will follow-up on matters brought up during the Public Forum comment period.
- In response to a Public Forum comment received, Member Brostrom requested an update on DTSC's Violation Scoring Procedures (VSP) revisions and SB 673 Regulations.

The Board took a break and upon return, a full quorum was re-established with all members present.

8 Hazardous Waste Management Plan Hearing #2 [02:20:05] BES Hazardous Waste Management Subcommittee Members Bhatia and Brostrom provided opening remarks and their respective feedback on DTSC's draft Hazardous Waste Management Plan ('Plan'). Executive Officer Sharma provided an overview of the Plan and tentative timeline. She also invited the public to submit their feedback on the Plan and shared that BES staff will hold informal engagements with the public and stakeholders.

In response to a request received in advance, the Board heard comment regarding the Plan from several local elected officials.

[DTSC's Draft Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#) was presented by Gabriella Nepomuceno, Branch Chief for DTSC's Hazardous Waste Management Program, Ryan Dominguez, DTSC Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer, Spencer Eberhard, Environmental Scientist, and Kayla Kuhl, Hazardous Substances Engineer.

Feedback and comments for the Plan can be submitted through the [DTSC Hazardous Waste Management Plan Public Feedback Portal](#).

The Board heard twenty-three (23) public comments on this item.

Member Brostrom was excused from the meeting at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was maintained.

Member Gomez was excused from the meeting at 8:02 p.m. A quorum was maintained.

9 Closing Remarks and Adjourn [05:31:10] Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.