

California Board of Environmental Safety

CalEPA Headquarters – Sierra Hearing Room
1001 “I” Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes of July 15, 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:

Katie Butler, Director

Brian Brown, Chief Financial Officer

Muzhda Ferouz, Permitting Division Branch Chief

Kaytherine Grant, Fiscal Officer

Surlene Grant, Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Equity

Wayne Lorentzen, Permitting Division Chief

Guest Presenters:

Miguel Alatorre, Environmental Justice Advisory Council Co-Chair

Karen Lincoln, Environmental Justice Advisory Council Co-Chair

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/IBp-AhH7BPM> and Spanish <https://youtu.be/yWhmd1TEOlq>

Public Comments will be posted in a separate document.

1 Call to Order, Roll Call and Establish Quorum [00:00:55] The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. and a quorum was established with all Board Members present.

2 Welcome, Opening Remarks [00:03:25] Board Chair Rakestraw provided opening remarks.

3 Executive Officer Report, Future Agenda Items [00:05:55] Executive Officer Swati Sharma provided updates on the Hazardous Waste Management Plan timeline, permit appeals, the remaining 2025 board meeting dates, Board budget, and Board action items from the May board meeting. Ombuds Lauren Chandler provided updates on May action items for the Department.

The Board heard two (2) public comments on this item.

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

4 DTSC Leadership Report [00:19:02] Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Katie Butler reported on Departmental news, Director's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Priorities, and Permitting updates.

The Board heard six (6) public comments on this item.

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

5 Hazardous Waste Facilities Operating Permit Decisions Status Report [01:42:55] DTSC Permitting Division Chief, Wayne Lorentzen presented an [addendum to the DTSC October 2024 Hazardous Waste Facilities Operation Permit Decision Status Report](#) for Ecobat Resources California, Inc. The Department proposed an extension of the final permit decision date from July 31, 2025, to October 31, 2025.

The Board heard five (5) public comments on this item.

Vice Chair Alexis Strauss-Hacker moved to adopt the revised schedule as contained in the packet. Member Bhatia seconded the Motion. Chair Rakestraw offered a minor modification to the Motion to change the word "adopt" to "accept". Vice Chair Strauss-Hacker clarified the motion to accept the revised schedule as contained in the packet. The Motion passed unanimously.

6 SB 673 Track 2 Update: Info Sheet #3 [02:09:18] DTSC Permitting Division Branch Chief, Muzhda Ferouz provided an overview of SB 673, the Department's goals of the Track 2 framework, along with a detailed overview of the contents and intent of [Information Sheet #3 – Setback Distance](#).

The Board heard four (4) public comments on this item.

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

7 Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) Update [03:09:00] DTSC's EJAC Co-Chairs, Karen Lincoln and Miguel Alatorre, provided the Board with an update on EJAC's work to date and priorities moving forward.

The Board heard two (2) public comments on this item.

8 Fiscal Year 2025-26 Fee Rate Setting Presentation [03:54:40] The Board's Environmental Program Manager, Ferdous Pourmirza, DTSC's Chief Financial Officer, Brian Brown, and DTSC's Fiscal Officer, Kaytherine Grant shared a joint presentation on the Board's fee setting process, and discussed the Department's Budget Act updates,

including fee rate scenarios for fiscal year 2025-26 on the Generation and Handling Fee, Facility Fee, and the Environmental Fee.

The Board anticipates voting on the new fee rates at the August 27 Board Meeting. Written comments on the Board's fee rate setting process can be emailed to BES Senior Staff Engineer, [Linda Ocampo](#).

The Board heard one (1) public comment on this item.

9 Public Forum [04:40:28]

The Board heard four (4) public comments.

10 Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Minutes [04:52:18] **Vice Chair Strauss-Hacker moved to approve the May 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Member Gomez. The motion was approved unanimously.**

11 Review Action Items [04:53:15] Vice Chair Hacker reviewed action items and future items for consideration from today's Board Meeting.

- Agenda Item 3 – Executive Officer Report
 - Public comment from David M., requested information about the Hazardous Waste Management training currently available to the public.
 - Member Brostrom wanted to know if there are any mechanisms that can be utilized as a Board to improve timeliness and what can the Board do in its authority to help timeliness as it related to DTSC's deadlines.
- Agenda Item 4 – DTSC Leadership Report
 - Member Bhatia requested information on whether Atlas Metal did any biomonitoring or if it will be held liable for any community compensation.
 - Member Gomez requested more information about the \$70 million appropriated for the Exide cleanup.
 - Member Brostrom requested information on DTSC's biomonitoring program and the criteria for biomonitoring.
 - Chair Rakestraw asked about the Department using existing resources or will there be new resources for the Director's Priorities.
 - Public comment from Dawn Koepke California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) asked whether stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to understand what the Department's public participation will look like. Also requested how the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL) is currently funded and whether there is any interest in expanding that funding, possible looking at a new funding structure to the extent that there is an interest beyond expanding any funding. Asked the Department whether they are collaborating or coordinating with other Board of Departments under the CalEPA umbrella on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigation. Requesting clarification if that will be focused on sites in the PFAS development action plan and what the timeline looks like as well as stakeholder engagement.

- Public comment from Brian Cadena (UNIDOS Network) requested information about which facilities under DTSC's jurisdiction contain or process PFAS.
- Agenda Item 6 – SB 673 Track 2 Update: Info Sheet #3
 - Member Gomez asked for information on how DTSC utilizes sensitive receptors.
- Agenda Item 7 – Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) Update
 - Members Brostrom and Member Gomez requested training for EJAC members to familiarize them with DTSC's organization and the role with facilities it oversees.
 - Public comment from Angela Johnson Meszaros (Earthjustice) requested the scope of work for the EJAC consultant contract.

12 Closing Remarks and Adjourn [04:57:52] Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.