



Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Director's Priorities Progress Report

November 2025

On August 27, 2025, the Board of Environmental Safety (BES) approved Director Katie Butler's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Director's Annual Priorities. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provides these period progress reports to update BES and the public on the implementation of the priorities. To view full list of priorities, download document from [here](#).

Priority 1. Consistent, Timely, and Equitable Enforcement

Goal 1.1. Establish an Enforcement Training Program

Deliverable 1.1.1. Course Format

In Progress

On October 24, 2025, course input was received from the EERD supervisors and branch chiefs. Next steps are to evaluate the input and adjust core and refresher courses accordingly along with the frequency of each course to add into the Enforcement Training Plan and to meet the December 31, 2025, due date.

Deliverable 1.1.2. Develop Course Content

In Progress

Staff are learning the Articulate training software and creating course content. Additionally, they are working with the Office of Environmental Information Management (OEIM) and the Office of Training on necessary software compatibility adjustments to get the courses into DTSC's internal training portal.

Goal 1.2. Implement the Site Mitigation and Restoration Program Enforcement Policy

Deliverable 1.2.1. Finalize and Disseminate SMRP Enforcement Policy

In Progress

The policy has been drafted and is undergoing initial draft review.

Deliverable 1.2.2. Create Project Manager's Desk Manual

In Progress

DTSC is in the process of drafting the Project Managers Desk Manual.

Goal 1.3. Evaluate and Report on Compliance with Safer Consumer Products Regulations and Consumer Product Safety Legislation

Deliverable 1.3.1. Toluene in Nail Products

Complete

DTSC released a [report](#), Testing Nail Products in California for Toluene: Summary of Findings in November 2025. DTSC tested more than 500 nail products from 142 unique

brands for toluene. DTSC's analysis shows that 95% of the nail products purchased either did not contain toluene or contained very low levels.

Deliverable 1.3.2. Formal Information Requests

Complete

On October 15, 2025, DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Program issued formal information requests (FIRs) to 16 manufacturers of products that treat textiles and leathers and contain PFAS. DTSC previously tested these products and found that they contained fluorine, which is an indicator of the presence of PFAS. The FIRs seek to gather additional information to help us further evaluate these products. The FIRs are due November 13th.

Deliverable 1.3.3. PFAS in Treatments for Converted Textiles and Leathers

In Progress

Evaluation is in progress, pending analysis of information received from the FIRs.

Deliverable 1.3.4. Motor Vehicle Brake Friction Material Law

In Progress

Evaluation is in progress.

Priority 2. Community Engagement

Goal 2.1. Update the Public Participation Manual

Deliverable 2.1.1. Public Engagement of Proposed Updates and Revisions

In Progress

The Office of Environmental Equity is creating an internal group and has made other staff assignments to update and in some cases create new sections of the manual. We will then review with internal cross-program teams. Once we schedule the cross-program reviews, we will seek public involvement in the review. Anticipate doing so in the Spring of 2026, prior to a final draft.

Deliverable 2.1.2. Final Draft Release

Awaiting Completion of Deliverable 2.1.1.

The final draft is anticipated in July 2026.

Goal 2.2. Conduct Environmental Justice Trainings

Deliverable 2.2.1. Implement Environmental Justice Trainings

In Progress

The initial modules will be completed soon after and launched no later than January 2026. The entire Environmental Justice training program will be completed by June 2026.

Priority 3. Science, Technology, and Policy Innovation

Goal 3.1. Right-size the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory

Deliverable 3.1.1. Address Laboratory Costs

In Progress

DTSC is continuing to evaluate funding sources.

Goal 3.2. Incorporate Lead Source Attribution in Cleanups

Deliverable 3.2.1. United States Geological Survey Report

Delayed

The final report is expected to be delivered to DTSC later than expected. Delivery date is currently unknown.

Deliverable 3.2.2. Pilot the Strategies of the USGS Report

Awaiting Completion of Deliverable 3.2.1

Piloting the strategies of this report will be dependent on USGS report finding and recommendations.

Goal 3.3. Holistic Approach to Vapor Intrusion

Deliverable 3.3.1. VI Public Workshop Series

In Progress

DTSC is planning to begin the series of workshops in Spring 2026.

Deliverable 3.3.2. Internal VI Workshop Training

In Progress

DTSC is developing trainings with the intent of beginning the trainings in Winter 2026.

Goal 3.4. Optimize DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Throughput and Impact

Deliverable 3.4.1. Development of the Draft SCP Workplan

In Progress

SCP is conducting key informant interviews of interested parties to inform the Workplan.

Deliverable 3.4.2. Accelerate the quest for safer products, with a focus on children's health, worker safety, and water protection.

In Progress

SCP is in the process of finalizing multiple technical documents to inform the development of safer consumer products.

Goal 3.5 Artificial Intelligence

Deliverable 3.5.1. Develop an AI Policy

In Progress

DTSC has drafted the AI Policy. The AI Policy is now undergoing review and approval.

Deliverable 3.5.2. Conduct and Streamline AI Risk Assessments

In Progress

The California Department of Technology recently released a new section in the Statewide Information Management Manual pertaining to Generative AI risk assessment. This section provides a new form for each agency to conduct risk assessments. DTSC has integrated this into our internal purchasing and governance processes.

Priority 4. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Goal 4.1. Remediation of Sites Contaminated with PFAS

Deliverable 4.1.1. PFAS Action Plan

In Progress

DTSC has drafted the Action Plan and is preparing it for internal review.

Deliverable 4.1.2. PFAS Collaboration

In Progress

The Human and Ecological Risk Office (HERO) is coordinating with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) on interstate policy and collaboration regarding PFAS site assessments and toxicology.

Goal 4.2. Prevent PFAS Pollution

Deliverable 4.2.1. Identify products that contribute to PFAS in California's water supply

In Progress

SCP is on track to release a Product-Chemical Profile for PFAS in Floor Polishes and Waxes in the coming months. Additional PFAS-containing products are under consideration for future research.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Director Priorities Continued Reporting

Pursuant to BES's request, DTSC continues to provide progress reports on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Director's Annual Priorities that were marked as "Partially Complete" or "Delayed." FY 24-25 Priorities can be found [here](#).

FY 24-25 Priority 1: Strengthen Enforcement

Sub-deliverable 1.1.3. Process improvements for timely enforcement (HWMP)

Continued in the FY 25-26 Director's Priorities.

DTSC is continuing this initiative through the development of new trainings, as reflected in Priority 1, Goal 1.1 in the FY 2025-2026 Director's Priorities.

Sub-deliverable 1.1.4. Enforcement Policy for the Site Mitigation and Restoration Program (SMRP)

Continued in the FY 25-26 Director's Priorities.

Priority 1, Goal 1.2.

Sub-deliverable 1.1.5. Build SCP's Compliance and Enforcement Capacity (SCP)

Continued in the FY 25-26 Director's Priorities.

Priority 1, Goal 1.3.

FY 24-25 Priority 2: Institutionalize Community Engagement

Sub-deliverable 2.2.2. Public Participation Manual (OEE)

Continued in the FY 25-26 Director's Priorities.

Priority 2, Goal 2.1.

FY 24-25 Priority 3: Promote Equity

Sub-deliverable 3.2.3. Initiate SB 673 Track 2 Rulemaking (HWMP)

In Progress

DTSC is working towards starting the formal rulemaking process.

Sub-deliverable 3.3.1. ECRG outcomes report (SMRP)

Completed

[ECRG outcomes report](#) was released on November 07, 2025.

Sub-deliverable 3.4.2. Complete facility decision documents (SMRP/Exide)

In Progress

The remedial investigation has been delayed due to access to railroad property next door. DTSC anticipates completion by end of 2025.

The Feasibility Study and Remedial Action Plan are pending a final decision by USEPA regarding the NPL listing. If the site is to be listed as Superfund, USEPA will be in charge of preparing these decision documents.

Sub-deliverable 3.4.3. NPL Listing (SMRP/Exide)

In Progress

DTSC continues to coordinate with USEPA regarding the listing, and a response is anticipated by end of 2025.

FY 24-25 Priority 4: Drive Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Sub-deliverable 4.1.2. Sea Level Rise Dashboard (SMRP)

In Progress

DTSC has developed an internal tool to help screen and prioritize cleanup sites that necessitate a sea level rise vulnerability assessment. DTSC is also developing concepts for a public sea level rise dashboard, and the work is being conducted in coordination with the State Water Board and California Ocean Protection Council, to ensure consistency in site screening criteria.

Sub-deliverable 4.1.4. Establish the new Climate Change Unit (SMRP)

Completed

The Climate Change Unit is fully staffed. Hiring for the unit was completed in August 2025 and it is now staffed with a Supervising HSE I, a Senior Engineering Geologist, a Senior HSE, and an HSE.

Sub-deliverable 4.4.2. Address problematic uses of PFAS in consumer products to turn off the tap on the PFAS contamination of our bodies and environment (SCP)

Continued in the FY 25-26 Director's Priorities.

Priority 4, Goal 4.2.

Sub-deliverable 4.4.3. Zinc in tires (SCP)

On Hold

SCP continues to evaluate strategies to address zinc in tire wear particles.

Sub-deliverable 4.4.4. Release product-chemical profile for products with quaternary ammonium compounds (SCP)

In Progress

SCP released a [background document on quaternary ammonium compounds](#) (QACs) in December 2024. Following review of public input, SCP is drafting two product-chemical profiles, anticipated for release in Spring 2026.