



Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Director's Priorities Progress Report

February 2026

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 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

Complete

On December 23, 2025, the course list with core and refresher courses and training timeline was finalized.

Deliverable 1.1.2. Develop Course Content

In Progress

Staff are in the process of creating course content and making the necessary software compatibility adjustments to make the training available to staff.

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. DTSC also released a video of Director Butler's discussing the report.

Deliverable 1.3.2. Formal Information Requests

Complete

On October 15, 2025, DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Program issued formal information requests (FIRs) to 17 manufacturers of textile and leather treatments containing 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 were due November 13th.

Deliverable 1.3.3. PFAS in Treatments for Converted Textiles and Leathers

In Progress

SCP tested 237 treatment products for PFAS and found that 37% contained total fluorine. DTSC completed follow-up compliance investigations for 25 manufacturers. All of these manufacturers have successfully removed PFAS treatments from the California marketplace, either by reformulating their products to not contain PFAS or ceasing the sale of products containing PFAS in California.

Deliverable 1.3.4. Motor Vehicle Brake Friction Material Law

In Progress

SCP is preparing to evaluate compliance at retail locations to ensure brake pad packaging contains the required leaf markings.

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 assigned staff to update and create new sections of the manual. DTSC will then conduct multiple internal reviews prior to seeking public engagement. DTSC anticipates doing public engagement in the Spring of 2026.

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 developed a budget change proposal (BCP) to secure funding for new instruments and laboratory equipment to replace obsolete or broken instruments and equipment. The BCP was incorporated in the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27.

Goal 3.2. Incorporate Lead Source Attribution in Cleanups

Deliverable 3.2.1. United States Geological Survey Report

In Progress

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

Not Started

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

VI Cleanup Case Basics (VI 101) & VI in the Community Workshops are scheduled for February 12, 2026, and February 26, 2026, respectively.

Deliverable 3.3.2. Internal VI Workshop Training

In Progress

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

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

Deliverable 3.4.1. Development of the Draft SCP Work Plan

In Progress

SCP is starting to draft the 2027-2029 Work Plan. SCP conducted early public engagement, starting in late 2025, which included outreach to 74 contacts, 18 informational interviews and a survey. The feedback received indicated strong public support for the ongoing work and retaining many of our product categories, particularly those identified as "Currently Under Evaluation" in the 2024-2026 Work Plan.

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

In Progress

In the coming months, SCP will release multiple technical documents summarizing its evaluation of chemicals in a variety of consumer products:

- Early-stage research
 - Evaluation of styrene in children's products
 - Evaluation of chemicals in intimate care products
- Pre-regulatory technical document ("product-chemical profile")

- Ortho-phthalates in children's products
- Preservatives in leave-on personal care products
- PFAS in floor maintenance products
- Quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) in antibacterial soaps, body washes, hand sanitizers, and antiseptic skin wipes

Goal 3.5 Artificial Intelligence

Deliverable 3.5.1. Develop an AI Policy

Completed

On December 22, 2025, DTSC's Artificial Intelligence Policy was approved.

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 which is undergoing internal review and planned to be ready for staff in April 2025.

Deliverable 4.1.2. PFAS Collaboration

In Progress

Collaboration with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office (HERO) is coordinating with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) on interstate policy, PFAS site assessments, and toxicology. OEHHA is developing toxicity criteria for PFAS in water and air which may be tested against existing criteria peer-reviewed by other states.

Collaboration with ECL

SMRP is working with DTSC's Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL) on expansion of the target analyte list for PFAS and on validation of the Total Oxidizable Precursor (TOP) Assay. This will contribute to improved understanding of PFAS sources, prevalence, and distribution.

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 and hold a public workshop on PFAS in Floor Maintenance Products in 2026.

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](#). At the end of FY 2024-2025, DTSC marked 13 sub-deliverables as "partially complete" or "delayed." Five of these sub-deliverables were incorporated into the FY 2025-2026 Director's Priorities. Two sub-deliverables were marked as complete and one was marked as being "on hold" in the November 2025 [Director's Priorities Progress Report](#). Progress on the remaining five sub-deliverables are detailed below.

FY 24-25 Priority 3: Promote Equity

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

Complete

On November 21, 2025, DTSC initiated the formal rulemaking process by publicly noticing the rulemaking package.

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

In Progress

The Feasibility Study and Remedial Action Plan are pending a final decision by USEPA regarding the NPL listing.

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 Spring of 2026.

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

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

In Progress

SMRP's Climate Change Unit is developing a sea level rise dashboard, in coordination with the State Water Board and California Ocean Protection Council, to provide the public with access to an online tool that will display both DTSC and State Water board cleanup sites that are susceptible to impacts from anticipated sea level rise.

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 the summer of 2026.