

California Board of Environmental Safety

CalEPA Headquarters – 2nd Floor, Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Public Comments – Summarized Transcript

February 5, 2026

PLEASE NOTE: Comments in this document have been summarized by Board of Environmental Safety Staff to facilitate review and are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. If you feel your comment has been altered, please contact Ombuds@bes.dtsc.ca.gov for revisions. For a complete recording of this meeting, please visit the [BES YouTube channel](#).

#	Agenda Item	Name	Public Comment	Affiliation
1.	#3 – DTSC Leadership Report	Angela Johnson Meszaros	Expressed disappointment with the amount of time allowed for public comment concerning SB673 and the lack of a plan for the Hazardous Waste Management Plan to be implemented.	Earthjustice
2.	#3 – DTSC Leadership Report	Ivana Castellanos	Voiced concerns about the lack of public engagement with the SB673 process. Spoke about the impact that defining hazardous waste can have on municipal landfills.	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles
3.	#3 – DTSC Leadership Report	Jeni Knack	Spoke about the threat to surrounding communities of not classifying waste as hazardous and the need to strengthen classification methodologies.	Parents Against Santa Susana Field Lab
4.	#3 – DTSC Leadership Report	Caroline Farrell	Emphasized the need for stronger community engagement and better integration of SB673 requirements into DTSC's rulemaking. Highlighted the recurring issue of releasing hazardous waste permit rules during holiday periods.	Environmental Law and Justice Clinic, Golden Gate University

5.	#3 – DTSC Leadership Report	Miguel Alatorre	Urged DTSC to strengthen SB673 regulations by requiring community vulnerability assessments for all hazardous waste facilities. Emphasized that current proposals underestimate real-world exposures.	Unidos Network
6.	#3 – DTSC Leadership Report	Brian Cadena	Stressed that current regulations fail to protect communities like Kettleman City, where cumulative pollution and health risks persist despite assurances of safety. Urged DTSC to adopt stronger measures, including assessments for all hazardous waste facilities within at least five miles.	El Pueblo Para Aire y Agua Limpia
7.	#4 - Hazardous Waste Facilities Operating Permit Decision Status Report	Miguel Alatorre	Recommended delaying the permit decision until 2027 to allow time for gathering more comprehensive health data, including biological markers and comparisons with other communities hosting hazardous landfills.	Unidos Network
8.	#5 – BES Evaluation of DTSC for FY 2024-25	Angela Johnson Meszaros	Criticized the evaluation process as lacking meaningful reflection, noting that it simply confirms goals set by the director without acknowledging past challenges. Questioned how Board recommendations could influence future evaluations.	Earthjustice
9.	#5 – BES Evaluation of DTSC for FY 2024-25	Vanessa Vasquez	Expressed disappointment that DTSC did not prioritize environmental justice and equity in the hazardous waste management plan, removing explicit language from earlier drafts and ignoring concerns from frontline communities.	Communities for a Better Environment
10.	#5 – BES Evaluation of DTSC for FY 2024-25	Ivana Castellanos	Noted that the evaluation feels disconnected from their experience engaging with DTSC and the Board. Urged the Board to consider community and advocate feedback when using evaluations as tools for improvement.	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles
11.	#5 – BES Evaluation of DTSC for FY 2024-25	Jeni Knack	Urged the Board to acknowledge its role in ensuring honest evaluations of DTSC, noting that the current	Parents Against Santa

			process seems to allow the director to control the evaluation structure, which undermines accountability.	Susana Field Lab
12.	#5 – BES Evaluation of DTSC for FY 2024-25	Caroline Farrell	Emphasized that evaluations should focus not only on listing accomplishments but also on assessing how effectively goals were achieved, particularly in reducing harm to impacted communities. Recommended narrowing the scope to fewer, outcome-oriented metrics.	Environmental Law and Justice Clinic at Golden Gate University
13.	#6 – Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI) FY 2024-25 Report	Angela Johnson Meszaros	Highlighted the lack of visibility and control over orphan sites, noting that DTSC is still trying to identify and characterize them. Urged DTSC to use all available tools to prevent noncompliance upfront.	Earthjustice
14.	#7 – Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) Update	Brian Cadena	Requested clarification on the Environmental Justice Advisory Council's membership process, specifically whether previously submitted applications will be reconsidered when a vacancy arises.	Unidos Network