

# California Board of Environmental Safety

Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2025

CalEPA Headquarters – Byron Sher Auditorium  
1001 “I” Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

## Board Members Present:

**Chair:** Andrew Rakestraw

**Vice Chair:** Alexis Strauss-Hacker

**Member:** Sushma Bhatia

**Member:** Ingrid Brostrom

**Member:** Georgette Gomez

## DTSC Staff Present:

Katie Butler, Director

Mandi Bane, Deputy Director, Hazardous Waste Management Program

Surlene Grant, Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Equity

Andres Martinez, Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Manager

## 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

Linda Ocampo, Senior Staff Engineer

Ferdous Pourmirza, Environmental Program Mgr.

Marcus Raymond, Senior Environmental Scientist

*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](mailto:Sheena.Brooks@bes.dtsc.ca.gov).*

**YouTube video links:** English <https://youtu.be/t9HmotZFUUC> and Spanish <https://youtu.be/8SHr9nhmvzA>

**Public Comments** will be posted in a separate document.

- 1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Establish Quorum.** [00:00:48] The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. and a quorum was established with all Board Members present.
- 2. Welcome, Opening Remarks.** [00:05:50] Board Chair Rakestraw provided opening remarks.
- 3. Revisions to BES Standing Order on Administration of Permit Appeals.** [00:10:25] Board Counsel Greg Forest reviewed the [proposed revisions](#) to the Board's Rules for Administration of Appeals and Standing Order 24-01. The rules that were considered for revision relate to public access to records, availability of documents in electronic format, and the process to complete the administrative record for the appeal, including the use of a new appeal management form and “Bates numbering” of records.

*The Board heard three (3) public comments on this item.*

**Motion #1: Vice Chair Strauss-Hacker motioned to adopt the revisions to the BES Standing Order on Administration of Permit Appeals but to retain references to “DTSC’s Permitting Division” consistent with the prior version. Seconded by Member Bhatia. Motion #1 passed unanimously.**

**Motion #2: Vice Chair Strauss Hacker motioned to request that DTSC Senior Management Team report back prior to the next Board Meeting on their efforts to digitize the final permit decision administrative record including steps and resources needed. Seconded by Member Gomez. Motion #2 passed unanimously.**

4. **DTSC 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan.** [01:03:36] The Board considered [DTSC's 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#) ('Plan'). Board Staff Engineer, Shayna Avila, presented the [Board Staff recommendation](#) to approve the 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan, and Deputy Director Mandi Bane provided a brief statement on the revisions that were made to the draft Plan.

*The Board heard thirty-six (36) public comments on this item.*

**Motion #1: Vice Chair Strauss-Hacker motioned to accept the staff recommendation to approve the Hazardous Waste Management Plan with the change to Recommendation 1.2 of Goal 1 of the Plan as proposed by DTSC. Seconded by Member Bhatia. Motion #1 passed with four “ayes” and one “no”.**

**Motion #2: Member Brostrom made a motion that BES will retain oversight of the implementation of the 2025 Hazardous Waste Management Plan, including but not limited to the following:**

1. Exploring the establishment of an advisory body for the implementation of the HWMP and establishment of the 2028 Plan;
2. DTSC developing and submitting to BES an implementation plan;
3. DTSC engaging the public and independent experts at BES meetings in its implementation of all recommendations, including 1.1, 1.2, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6; and
4. DTSC including a numerical reduction and/or diversion goal in the 2028 plan.

**BES will report at its January meeting on its progress, including discussions with DTSC, in this regard.**

**Seconded by Vice Chair Strauss-Hacker. Motion #2 passed with four “ayes” and one “no”.**

5. **DTSC Leadership Report.** [04:34:49] DTSC Director Katie Butler provided an update on Departmental News, which included STEM Outreach: Toxic Crusaders Program, the September California Land Recycling Conference, Office of Brownfields project highlights, Safer Consumer Products (SCP) program updates, and metal shredder facility oversight; the Director's 2025-26 Priorities; Exide funding; and upcoming Permitting final decisions.

*Public Comments for this agenda item were heard with Agenda Item #6.*

6. **DTSC Environmental Justice Training Presentation.** [05:00:30] Deputy Director for Office of Environmental Equity, Surlene Grant and Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Manager, Andres Martinez, gave a joint presentation on DTSC's Environmental Justice Training. The

training is required for all of DTSC's project leads. DTSC will review and update the training every three years.

*The Board heard four (4) public comments for Agenda Items #5 and #6.*

*Agenda item #7, the Hazardous Waste Facilities Operating Permit Decision Status Report for the Ecobat Resources California, Inc. permit schedule was tabled.*

**8. Public Forum.** [05:23:26]

*The Board heard six (6) public comments.*

**9. Hazardous Waste Management Program Metrics.** [05:54:01] Senior Board Staff Engineer, Linda Ocampo, presented on the Board's Hazardous Waste Management Program subcommittee's proposed performance metrics for the Hazardous Waste Management Program. The proposed metrics were created through a collaborative process with DTSC's leadership and public input. The metrics focus specifically on the Hazardous Waste Management Program's Permitting and Enforcement programs. The subcommittee recommended to approve the performance metrics as stated in the [BES Metrics Subcommittee Recommendation Memo](#) and the [BES Metrics Subcommittee Proposed Metrics Memo Attachment](#).

*The Board heard three (3) public comments on this item.*

**Member Bhatia motioned to adopt the BES Staff recommendation for the proposed Hazardous Waste Management Program Metrics. Seconded by Member Brostrom. The motion passed unanimously.**

*Agenda Item #10, Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Minutes for the July and August Board Meetings, along with Agenda item #11, Review of Action Items, was tabled.*

**12. Closing Remarks and Adjourn** [06:39:46] Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.