



2023 DTSC Director's Priorities

Progress to Date: August 2023

Objective 1: Environmental Justice/Equity

Priority	Update
Equity in Enforcement activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 22/23, 54% of the facilities inspected were in disadvantaged communities (met goal of >50%). • Inspections for 23/24 prioritized using the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CalEnviroScreen score of 70% or above ◦ Regions identified in the USEPA/CalEPA EJ MOU (Los Angeles, Fresno, Kern, Bay Area) ◦ Opportunities to assist CUPAs with inspections of complex generators ◦ Located next to residential areas, schools, and other sensitive populations (metal recyclers and metal platers) • 100% return to compliance achieved in the first quarter of CY2023 for violations issued to permitted facilities located in vulnerable communities. (Goal is 90%) • 91% return to compliance achieved in the first quarter of CY2023 for violations issued to all facilities located in vulnerable communities. (Goal is 80%)
CVCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff has been working with the California Environmental Justice Alliance to better align Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative programs with environmental justice principles. • The Discovery & Enforcement program completed all 112 Phase I site assessments for year 1 and is starting on the nearly 300 sites to pursue for discovery, enforcement, or investigation in year 2.
Cumulative impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed updated webpage on SB 673 Track 2 (community vulnerability and health risks) with planned interactive elements for public input. Currently preparing materials and planning for a public workshop this year on revised framework. • DTSC will be prepared to share results of the Kettleman CalEnviroScreen Analysis in Fall 2023 and will seek input from community members on whether that data is reflective of their lived experiences. Feedback will be incorporated as appropriate. Buttonwillow CalEnviroScreen Analysis is under development. • Working with Region IX and the consultant to partner with community groups and conduct the North Richmond CIA.
Strengthen regulatory oversight of metal shredder facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing two applications (Sims Redwood City and Schnitzer Oakland). Issued first NOD for Schnitzer and meeting with facility representatives to discuss. Part B application from Sims is due October 13. • Currently evaluating the implications of the recent court decision to reinstate OPP 88-6 and how this may impact our strategy. DTSC is committed to strengthening regulatory requirements for metal shredders to prevent offsite releases and fires. • DTSC responded to the recent fire, collected samples and issued two violations – one for failure to minimize/prevent a fire and one for failure to make the proper emergency notifications (to CalOES). Our investigation is ongoing. We are coordinating with other local and state response agencies through CalEPA.
Racial Equity Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework was rolled out to staff in May. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Initiative being led by Executive Sponsors in partnership with consultant. A DEIB Advisory Council has been selected for a staff-wide committee for ongoing discussions and implementation of DEIB initiatives.

Objective 2: Public Engagement

Priority	Update
Adopt Best Practices for Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surlene Grant, DTSC's new Deputy Director for the Office of Environmental Equity was sworn in June 26, and this will be a priority.
Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff has been engaged in public discussions, and incorporated feedback from discussions into updated guidelines for the Phase 2 solicitation. The ECRG guidelines were revised in response to environmental justice group input. Staff developed tools for applicants and have been providing technical assistance to give them the best shot at grant funding. Phase 2 of ECRG grants was released on August 14, 2023, and applications will be due on October 9, 2023.
Transform Engagement for Communities Impacted by Exide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DTSC has been working closely with a working group of local and state elected and government officials and community-based organizations on new approaches to community engagement. DTSC accepted public comment to revise the solicitation for the next residential cleanup contract. Solicitation changes are being incorporated to respond to community and worker concerns (health and safety reporting and procedures, training, etc.) Having held several public workshops since January, launched a more-user friendly website in English in Spanish, and worked to secure a system for text alerts, DTSC is working with community and government partners to make further improvements in the quality and quantity of engagement opportunities and educational materials – including tenant outreach tools. A public workshop will be held to share updates and receive feedback. DTSC's Public Participation team partnered with the LA County Mental Health Promotores Program to conduct community-led outreach to encourage homeowners to sign access agreements. The six week canvassing partnership resulted in 936 visits to households and 23 new access agreements obtained.

Objective 3: Sustained Performance

Priority	Update
Reduce continued permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5+ year: There are a total of 6 remaining permits that have been continued for more than 5 years. 3 of the 6 have already been public noticed for public input. Kettleman, Buttonwillow, and Quemetco permit decisions have not been public noticed yet. On track to public notice Kettleman and Quemetco this year, but Kern County EIR delays may impact DTSC's timeline for the Buttonwillow permit decision. We received significant public comment on the draft Phibro-Tech permit and we are currently working on incorporating those comments into our draft decision. 2+ year: There are a total of 5 remaining permits that have been continued for more than 2 years but less than 5 years. One was public noticed in July. On track to reduce the total number of remaining 2+ year continued permits (including 5+ year) to less than 10 by the end of the year. For the 22/23 FY, 100% (12/12) of reminder letters were sent on time to permitted facilities to ensure timely submittal of permit applications. On track to send 100% of reminder letters on time for 23/24 FY.
Hazardous Waste Management Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Draft Hazardous Waste Management Report was released in July and a workshop was held this month to receive public input.
Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final Program Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was released and certified.

Objective 4: Strategic Management

Priority	Update
Strategic Plan Prioritized Actions include cross- department and program-level actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 74 of 110 Prioritized Actions (PAs) complete, (67%)• DTSC is working to refine the remaining PAs to ensure all Strategic Plan deliverables are completed.
Strategic Plan Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Strategic Plan Dashboard was updated at the end of July. In addition to ensuring all data was updated for Q4 of the last FY, the following changes were implemented, incorporating internal and public feedback:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Development and release of an ADA compliant version of the dashboard, ensuring greater accessibility and compliance with AB 434.○ Development and release of a mobile friendly version of the dashboard.○ Updating graph descriptions for KPI clarity○ Data validation and improvement improvements○ Development of new Permit Backlog KPI in response to public feedback.• Next steps will target data automation, with Goals 1 and 2 data sources transitioned by 18 August.