

MINUTES OF THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

Department of Consumer Affairs
1747 North Market Blvd., Hearing Room #186
Sacramento, CA 95834

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Board Members Present: President Guillermo Martinez; Vice-President Frank Ruffino; Fel Amistad; Alireza Asgari; Rossana D'Antonio; Desirea Haggard; Michael Hartley; Betsy Mathieson, Fermin Villegas; Cliff Waldeck; and Christina Wong

Board Members Absent: Wilfredo Sanchez

Board Staff Present: Ric Moore (Executive Officer); Tiffany Criswell (Assistant Executive Officer); Dawn Hall (Administrative Services Manager); Josh Goodwin (Senior Registrar Geologist), Natalie King (Senior Registrar Civil Engineer); Bruce Locken (Senior Registrar Mechanical Engineer); Dallas Sweeney (Senior Registrar Land Surveyor); Francesca Domingo LaFleur (Enforcement Analyst); and Christopher Pirrone (Legal Counsel)

I. **Roll Call to Establish a Quorum**

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and a quorum was established.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

President Martinez led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

Mr. Carl Josephson, Structural Engineer and member of the NCEES Structural Practice Task Force, provided an overview of the task force's recent work following his attendance at the NCEES Western Zone Meeting. He explained that the six-member task force was assigned six charges by NCEES President Elizabeth Beckett Johnson and has met four times, resulting in six motions that will be presented at the NCEES Annual Meeting in August 2026.

He thanked the Board for allowing him to participate with NCEES as an emeritus member of our Board, emphasizing that he participates in the task force as an individual engineer while bringing a California perspective.

IV. **Hearing on the Petition for Early Termination of Probation of Manouchehr Hakhamaneshi**

This hearing was held on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

9:55 a.m. Clifford Waldeck left, returning at 10:45 a.m.

- V. Closed Session – The Board met in Closed Session to discuss, as needed:**
- A. Deliberate on a Decision(s) to be Reached in a Proceeding(s) Required to be Conducted Pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500), as Authorized by Government Code Section 11126(c)(3).
 - B. Confer with, or Receive Advice from, Its Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(1) and (2)(A), on the following matters:
 - 1. Hossein Eftekhari v. Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WM000236
 - 2. Shahrokh Esmaily-Radvar vs. Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 25STCP02175
 - 3. James MacGregor Renfrew, Jr. vs. Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 25STCP02233
- VI. Administration**
- A. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget Report
 - 1. Ms. Dawn Hall, Administrative Services Manager, reported that revenue is slightly higher than the same period in a comparable high-volume renewal year (FY 2023/24). Full-year revenue projections are expected to be met or slightly exceeded. Expenses remain stable, with no significant changes anticipated. Fund balance reserves and months in reserve projections are unchanged. Board members inquired about renewal revenue projections for FY 2027/28, supplemental pension payments, and statewide administrative expenditures. Ms. Hall and staff clarified that projections reflect anticipated fee increases and renewal assessment requirements, and certain line items are determined by the state budget process.
- VII. Enforcement**
- A. Enforcement Statistical Reports
 - 1. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Update
Ms. Tiffany Criswell, Assistant Executive Officer, presented the current Enforcement statistics.
- VIII. Exams/Licensing**
- A. Examination/Licensing Updates
Mr. Ric Moore, Executive Officer, reviewed the Professional Engineer Structural Examination statistics. The board discussed examinee population trends, examination format changes, and impacts on performance and results. Public comments included appreciation for the inclusion of result charts and questions regarding low pass rates and their implications for public safety and barriers to entry. Mr. Moore confirmed the reported pass rates and explained the context for examination outcomes.

IX. Legislation

A. 2026 Legislative Calendar

Mr. Moore reviewed the legislative calendar, noting key deadlines for committee hearings and bill passage.

B. Discussion of Legislation for 2026 (**Possible Action**)

1. Assembly Bill (AB) 1693 – Accelerated retailer building plan approval

The board maintained a watch position, no action required.

2. AB 1775 – Veterans

MOTION: Ms. Wong and Vice President Ruffino moved to continue to take a watch position on AB 1775 as revised on April 7, 2026.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

• President Martinez	Yes
• Vice-President Ruffino	Yes
• Fel Amistad	Yes
• Alireza Asgari	Yes
• Rossana D'Antonio	Yes
• Desirea Haggard	Yes
• Michael Hartley	Yes
• Betsy Mathieson	Yes
• Wilfredo Sanchez	Absent
• Fermin Villegas	Yes
• Cliff Waldeck	Yes
• Christina Wong	Yes

3. AB 1796 – Licensed Professional Interior Design Act

Staff reported on the bill and explained concerns about potential ramifications of establishing an Interior Design Professional license, including vague language that appeared to permit interior designers to exercise responsible charge of professional engineering or land surveying services. Staff recommended that the board take an opposed unless amended position.

During Public Comment, Mr. William Estepa, representing American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) stated the organization's formal opposition to the bill citing concerns about scope of practice, professional responsibility, and regulatory clarity. They argued that expanding licensure without demonstrated need could complicate processes and increase costs and emphasized the importance of maintaining clear accountability among licensed professionals.

Also, during Public Comment, Mr. Brett Gladfelty of Gladfelty Government Relations on behalf of International Interior Design Association of California (IIDA) and sponsors of AB 1796, stated the bill would establish education, examination, and experience standards for interior designers, clarify scope of practice, and align California with other jurisdictions. They expressed willingness to collaborate with the board to address concerns and ensure consumer protection.

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. Wong moved to take an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 1796 as revised on April 16, 2026, and direct staff to work with the authors of the bill.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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|--------------------------|--------|
| • President Martinez | Yes |
| • Vice-President Ruffino | Yes |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D’Antonio | Yes |
| • Desirea Haggard | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Betsy Mathieson | Yes |
| • Wilfredo Sanchez | Absent |
| • Fermin Villegas | Yes |
| • Cliff Waldeck | Yes |
| • Christina Wong | Yes |

4. AB 1933 – Land surveyors: records of survey
Staff reported that conversations with the sponsors are ongoing and appearing to move in a positive direction

MOTION: Ms. Mathieson and Mr. Hartley moved to take an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 1933 as revised April 8, 2026, and direct staff to pursue amendments.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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| • President Martinez | Yes |
| • Vice-President Ruffino | Yes |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D’Antonio | Yes |
| • Desirea Haggard | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Betsy Mathieson | Yes |

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| • Wilfredo Sanchez | Absent |
| • Fermin Villegas | Yes |
| • Cliff Waldeck | Yes |
| • Christina Wong | Yes |

5. AB 1999 – Land Surveyors: photogrammetry
No action required; the Board continued to maintain its current watch position on AB 1999.

6. AB 2287 – Contractors: disciplinary action
Staff reported that the Author canceled the scheduled committee hearing and while staff is expecting the bill not to move forward, will continue to monitor during this session. The Board maintained its previous position of oppose unless amended for AB 2287.

During Public Comment, Mr. David Woolley commented that AB 2287 appears to stem from last year's AB 1341, which sought to reaffirm that licensed contractors must follow existing laws and clarified that this Board regulates professional practice—not tools or technology. He explained that some contractors have interpreted this as a “rules for tools” issue and are now seeking to create protections that would prevent them from being held in violation when using certain tools or technologies. Mr. Woolley suggested this effort is an attempt by contractors to carve out new allowances amid concerns that technological changes may cause the Board to reassert oversight of work that contractors have long performed. He expressed support for the Board's opposition to the bill.

7. AB 2435 – Land Surveyors
Staff reported meeting with Author's staff and sponsors which resulted in an awareness that the Board does not possess legal authority to recommend or demand jail time through the administrative processes. Staff is currently working with the Author and sponsors to develop language which appropriately addresses the Board's authority to issue fines for unlicensed violations.

During Public Comment, Mr. David Woolley discussed the limited impact of fines for unlicensed practice, noting that penalties are often insignificant relative to contract values. Woolley suggested structural changes to incentivize compliance and reduce non-compliant practices, such as requiring owners to hire land surveyors directly

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. Wong moved to take an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 2435 as revised on April 15, 2026, and direct staff to continue to engage with authors of the bill.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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|--------------------------|--------|
| • President Martinez | Yes |
| • Vice-President Ruffino | Yes |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D'Antonio | Yes |
| • Desirea Haggard | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Betsy Mathieson | Yes |
| • Wilfredo Sanchez | Absent |
| • Fermin Villegas | Yes |
| • Cliff Waldeck | Yes |
| • Christina Wong | Yes |

8. Senate Bill (SB) 1011 – Energy: Utility Infrastructure AI Safety, Oversight, and Workforce Protection Act

Staff reported concerns associated with the latest amendments which removed any reference to oversight by an appropriately licensed professional engineer and also noted that the actions being proposed in this bill appear to directly contradict concerns previously brought forth to the Board and the Governor by NTSB, a federal agency, related to proper oversight by licensed engineers at public utilities.

During Public Comment, Mr. David Woolley supported the board's position, emphasizing the need for carve-outs in AI-related bills to protect professional practice acts and ensure proper oversight. Woolley referenced relevant government code sections and recent legal decisions.

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Mr. Ruffino moved to take an Oppose Unless Amended position on SB 1011 as revised on April 22, 2026, and direct staff to continue to engage with author of the bill.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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|--------------------------|--------|
| • President Martinez | Yes |
| • Vice-President Ruffino | Yes |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D'Antonio | Yes |
| • Desirea Haggard | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Betsy Mathieson | Yes |
| • Wilfredo Sanchez | Absent |
| • Fermin Villegas | Yes |

- Cliff Waldeck Yes
- Christina Wong Yes

9. SB 1248 – State agencies: automated decision systems
The Board took no action and decided to continue to maintain its previous watch position on SB 1248.

X. Rulemaking Status Report

A. Pending Rulemaking Efforts – Status Report

Mr. Moore reported that the fee increase rulemaking package has gained final approval and will become effective July 1, 2026. Staff anticipate progress on other rulemaking efforts, including gender-neutral terms, technical clean-up, disciplinary orders, definitions for professional geologists and geophysicists, and examination waivers for applicants under the UK MRA.

XI. Executive Officer's Report

A. Personnel

Management is reviewing options for filling the former Board Liaison position.

B. Discussion on Upcoming License Renewal Assessment

The Board discussed the new renewal assessment requirement, which aims to increase awareness of laws and regulations and reduce violations. The assessment will be available online, is not an exam, and must be completed within 60 days of license renewal. Staff provided clarification on process, outreach, and compliance monitoring.

During Public Comment, William Estepa, licensed land surveyor, offered his opinion that the renewal assessment would provide great awareness to all licensees, that they can stay current on the laws.

C. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

1. Report from April 9–11, 2026, Council of Examiners Workshop, Branson, MO

The Board discussed ASBOG's efforts including exam development, workforce trends, and outreach efforts to encourage licensure among geology students.

D. National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)

1. Report from April 30-May 2, 2026, Western Zone Interim Meeting, Bend, OR

Board representatives who attended the Western Zone meeting shared with the Board what they learned from Committee/Task Force reports and expectations for motions to be voted on at the upcoming Annual Meeting in August

2. Annual Meeting August 17-21, 2026, Henderson, NV – Determine Funded Delegates (**Possible Action**)

MOTION: Dr. Asgari and Ms. D'Antonio moved to select Frank Ruffino, Christina Wong, and Dawn Hall as funded delegates; add Natalie King as alternate contingent on budget approval.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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|--------------------------|---------|
| • President Martinez | Yes |
| • Vice-President Ruffino | Abstain |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D'Antonio | Yes |
| • Desirea Haggard | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Betsy Mathieson | Yes |
| • Wilfredo Sanchez | Absent |
| • Fermin Villegas | Yes |
| • Cliff Waldeck | Yes |
| • Christina Wong | Yes |

E. Update on Outreach Efforts

Staff highlighted increased engagement on social media platforms, particularly LinkedIn, and ongoing outreach to universities and community colleges.

XII. President's Report/Board Member Activities

President Martinez reported on outreach activities, including presentations at college campuses and professional conferences. Board members shared updates on committee participation and collaboration with professional organizations

XIII. Election of 2026-27 President and Vice President (Possible Action)

MOTION: Ms. Wong and Mr. Villegas moved to elect Mr. Ruffino to Board President and Ms. Haggard to Vice President for the term beginning July 1, 2026.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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|--------------------------|---------|
| • President Martinez | Yes |
| • Vice-President Ruffino | Abstain |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D'Antonio | Yes |
| • Desirea Haggard | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Betsy Mathieson | Yes |

- Wilfredo Sanchez Absent
- Fermin Villegas Yes
- Cliff Waldeck Yes
- Christina Wong Yes

XIV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Possible Action)

A. Approval of March 5, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. Haggard moved to approve the March 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes as presented.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

- President Martinez Yes
- Vice-President Ruffino Absent
- Fel Amistad Yes
- Alireza Asgari Yes
- Rossana D'Antonio Yes
- Desirea Haggard Yes
- Michael Hartley Yes
- Betsy Mathieson Yes
- Wilfredo Sanchez Absent
- Fermin Villegas Yes
- Cliff Waldeck Yes
- Christina Wong Yes

XV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:17p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENT

David Garcia, Goyette, Ruano + Ulmer

William Estepa, ACEC-CA

Krystinne Mica, SEAOC

Carl Josephson, SEAOC