

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, July 16, 2026

Board Members Present: President Frank Ruffino; Vice-President Desirea Haggard; Fel Amistad; Alireza Asgari; Rossana D'Antonio; Michael Hartley; Guillermo Martinez; 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); Brook Grabowski (Enforcement Program Manager); 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); Christopher Pirrone (Legal Counsel) and Jennifer Robbins (Regulatory Counsel)

I. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

President Ruffino called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and a quorum was established.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Amistad led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

IV. Administration

A. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget Report

Ms. Hall presented the financial report noting a slight increase in expenses. Clarification on the revenue and expenses were provided as they related specifically to revenue projections in the Fund Condition. It was noted that surplus is retained in the fund and carried over to subsequent fiscal years. The Board expects minor increases in expenses in response to the return to office mandate as Board staff will be working in the office four days a week.

V. Enforcement

A. Enforcement Statistical Reports

1. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Update

Ms. Grabowski reported a focus on case closure, with investigations opened continuing to rise. It was noted that the average days for investigations have decreased.

VI. Exams/Licensing

A. Examination/Licensing Updates

There were no examination or licensing updates at this time.

VII. Legislation

A. 2026 Legislative Calendar

Mr. Moore noted that the legislature is in recess until Monday, August 3, 2026.

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

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

MOTION: Ms. Mathieson and Ms. Wong moved to continue to take a watch position on AB 1693 as amended on June 25, 2026.
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VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

1. AB 1767 – Public members of boards: conflict of interest

MOTION: Ms. Mathieson and Dr. Amistad moved to continue to take a watch position on AB 1767 as amended on June 23, 2026.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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|--------------------------|-----|
| • President Ruffino | Yes |
| • Vice-President Haggard | Yes |
| • Fel Amistad | Yes |
| • Alireza Asgari | Yes |
| • Rossana D'Antonio | Yes |
| • Michael Hartley | Yes |
| • Guillermo Martinez | Yes |

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

2. AB 1775 – Veterans

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Dr. Amistad moved to continue to take a watch position on AB 1775 as amended on May 18, 2026.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

3. AB 1796 – Licensed Professional Interior Designer Act

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. D'Antonio moved to oppose AB 1796 as amended on June 23, 2026.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

4. AB 1933 – Land surveyors: records of survey

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. Wong moved to oppose AB 1933 as amended June 18, 2026, unless amended to remove ‘person licensed to practice as a civil engineer’ from Section 8773 (a) and Section 8773 (c) and further authorized staff to change the Board’s position to Support if the requested amendments were made.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

5. AB 2287 – Contractors: disciplinary action

There was no action required on AB 2287.

6. AB 2435 – Land Surveyors

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. Wong made a motion to support AB 2435 as amended June 10, 2026.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

7. Senate Bill (SB) 1011 – Energy: Utility Infrastructure AI Safety, Oversight, and Workforce Protection Act
There was no action required on SB 1011.

8. SB 1248 – State agencies: automated decision systems

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Dr. Amistad made a motion to maintain a watch position on SB 1248.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

VIII. Rulemaking Status Report

A. Pending Rulemaking Efforts – Status Report

Mr. Moore reported Board staff continue to work on pending regulations, including amendments for gender-neutral language and clarifying disciplinary orders.

During Public Comment, Krystinne Mica, Executive Director of the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC), thanked the Board for including in the rulemaking efforts the request SEAOC made regarding adding gender neutral language to the Board's regulations.

B. Consideration of Rulemaking Proposal

1. Discussion to Initiate Section 100 Rulemaking to Amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 3022, Professional Geologist Educational and Experience Requirements (**Possible Action**)

MOTION: Ms. Wong and Ms. Mathieson moved to initiate a rulemaking to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 3022 as proposed and authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to pursue and complete the rulemaking through the Title 1, CCR section 100 rulemaking process, make any technical or non-substantive changes to the text and package as needed throughout the process, and adopt the proposed regulations at section 3022.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

2. Discussion to Initiate Section 100 Rulemaking to Amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 419, Disciplinary Orders Section
(Possible Action)

MOTION: Ms. Wong and Dr. Amistad moved to initiate a rulemaking to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 419 as proposed and authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to pursue and complete the rulemaking through the Title 1, CCR section 100 rulemaking process, make any technical or non-substantive changes to the text and package as needed throughout the process and adopt the proposed regulations at section 419.
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VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

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

IX. Executive Officer's Report

A. Personnel

Mr. Moore noted there is nothing more to report, there continues to be one vacant position in Administrative Services unit.

B. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

Mr. Moore reported the annual meeting for ASBOG will be held this fall and will be discussed at the September 2026 Board meeting.

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

1. Annual Meeting August 17-21, 2026, Henderson, NV – Discussion of Motions (**Possible Action**)

Mr. Moore noted the Board materials include motions for the upcoming NCEES Annual Meeting and brought several motions forward for the Board to consider.

During Public Comment, Carl Josephson, emeritus member of the Board and member of SEAOC, discussed NCEES Finance Motion 8 and expressed support for a rational, systematic approach to fee changes. Mr. Josephson noted that every time exam fees are discussed, it generates lengthy debate—even for small increments. He emphasized that the proposed method for adjusting fees makes sense, as it would reduce unnecessary controversy and provide predictability. He also acknowledged differing opinions about whether exams should be free or generate revenue but ultimately endorsed the board’s approach as reasonable.

In addition, Mr. Josephson provided commentary on motions from the Structural Practice Task Force. He summarized the purpose of a motion to define “significant structures,” explaining that several states require such structures to be designed by licensed structural engineers—most notably on the West Coast, surrounding California. He clarified that California has not adopted this requirement, but the motion would provide a model definition for states wishing to do so. He described this as a positive first step, offering guidance for future adoption if California chooses to pursue similar legislation.

Mr. Josephson also explained why California has not yet adopted the significant structures requirement: it would require formal legislation, and the board has preferred to wait for a bill before taking an official position. He highlighted that the model definition is based on established standards (such as ASCE 7) and risk categories, ensuring that only structures posing substantial risk to large numbers of people would be affected.

MOTION: Mr. Hartley and Ms. Mathieson moved to recommend a support position on NCEES Finance Motion 8, barring any unforeseen amendments.
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VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

- President Ruffino Yes
- Vice-President Haggard Yes
- Fel Amistad Yes
- Alireza Asgari Yes
- Rossana D'Antonio Yes
- Michael Hartley Yes
- Guillermo Martinez No
- Betsy Mathieson Yes
- Wilfredo Sanchez Absent
- Fermin Villegas Yes
- Cliff Waldeck Yes
- Christina Wong Yes

2. Update on Outreach Efforts

Mr. Moore reviewed various Board staff outreach efforts including in-person and virtual presentations and social media postings.

During Public Comment, Mr. Andrew Johnson from the California Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-CA) thanked the Board, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Natalie King, Senior Registrar, for attending NSPE-CA meetings and presentations to students pursuing licensure.

X. President's Report/Board Member Activities

Mr. Ruffino introduced and welcomed Ms. Jennifer Robbins, Legal Counsel who advises the Board on policy and regulations. In addition, Mr. Ruffino congratulated Ms. D'Antonio, who has been elected as national President of the American Society of Civil Engineers for the 2027-2028 term.

Mr. Martinez and Dr. Asgari have both been reappointed to the Board.

XI. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Possible Action)

MOTION: Dr. Amistad and Mr. Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026 Board meeting.

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

- President Ruffino Yes
- Vice-President Haggard Yes
- Fel Amistad Yes
- Alireza Asgari Yes
- Rossana D'Antonio Yes
- Michael Hartley Yes
- Guillermo Martinez Yes
- Betsy Mathieson Yes
- Wilfredo Sanchez Absent

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|-------------------|-----|
| • Fermin Villegas | Yes |
| • Cliff Waldeck | Yes |
| • Christina Wong | Yes |

XII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENT

William Estepa, ACEC-CA

Krystinne Mica, SEAOC

Andrew Johnson, NSPE-CA