

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

Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 North Market Boulevard, Hearing Room, #102
Sacramento, CA 95834

Thursday, September 18, 2025

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

I. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum was established.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

9:02 a.m. The Board recessed to address technical difficulties. President Martinez called the meeting to order again at 10:30 a.m. and reestablished a quorum.

III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

During Public Comment, an individual by the name of David Schwegel addressed the board about the need for a national traffic exam. He noted that he has been working to get this implemented in California since at least 1986 but has faced challenges with Caltrans. Mr. Schwegel shared that he spoke with Ken Fuller, Executive Director for the Washington Board. Mr. Fuller advised him to gather letters of support from 10 licensing boards. Once he has the letters of support, he said NCEES can prepare and administer the exam to all 50 states. He mentioned he is currently working with several states and plans to speak in Nevada on November 6th. He also named Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Florida, and New York as other states he is collaborating with. He requested to be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting and thanked the board for their time.

IV. Hearing on the Petition for Reinstatement of Revoked License of Dmitriy Lashkevich

This hearing was held on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

The Board met in Closed Session immediately following the Hearing on the Petition for Reinstatement of Revoked License to decide that matter, pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(3).

III. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda (Cont.)

During Public Comment, Michael Parolini, representing Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) introduced the organization's new Executive Director, Christine Micah, who expressed her enthusiasm for the ability to participate in Board discussions.

VI. Administration

A. Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget Report

Dawn Hall, Administrative Manager, reviewed the revenue report. Fiscal Year 2024/25 was a lower volume year for renewals. The expectation was that the renewal revenue would be down, and the overall revenue would be down over the last year, but we are up over the comparable period which was Fiscal Year 2022/23. As a reminder, renewal revenue is typically 80% of the total revenue. Even though delinquency fees revenue is down, it is less than 1% of the total revenue and not significant in terms of overall revenue. The actual revenue for Fiscal Month 13 was about \$600,000 higher than projected, largely due to investment income revenue likely due to increased interest rates. The Board's renewal revenues were just about at projection at \$9.3 million.

Total projections for expenses for the year were \$12.2 million which reflects the fully encumbered contract amounts that do not always bill out during the course of the year. Ms. Hall noted that C&P services external contracts are the ones that typically do not fully bill out and so the actual expenses came in at \$11.5 million, which is under the 12.2 that was projected. Ms. Hall added that staff will continue to monitor expenses for Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), evidence, witness fees, and court reporters as these line items were higher than projected.

In reference to the fund condition, she reported that the ending fund balance for July 2025 was initially projected to be \$1.7 million with a 1.6-month reserve. However, due to lower than expected expenses and slightly higher revenues, it is now projected at \$2.7 million, which equates to a 2.3-month reserve.

VII. Enforcement

A. Enforcement Statistical Reports

1. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Update

Brook Grabowski, Enforcement Manager, reviewed the Enforcement statistics. Ms. Mathieson noted that a chart on page 26 does not start at zero at the bottom of the vertical axis. As an example, the vertical axis goes from 330 to 355 cases in the complaint investigation phase (red bars) and distorts the impression of how much it has increased over the year. She recommends that the vertical axis be changed to start at zero like the rest of the graphs. Ms. Criswell, Assistant Executive Officer, confirmed that she would take steps to address the issue.

VIII. Exams/Licensing

A. Examination/Licensing Updates

There are currently no updates. Mr. Moore predicts that the Examination Unit Manager may have a report at the next meeting.

During Public Comment, Michael Parolin raised concerns about licensure theft. He reported that unlicensed individuals, including contractors and some from other countries, are stealing licenses. Mr. Parolini emphasized that if jurisdictions do not perform due diligence, these thefts can go unnoticed. He recommended that the board consider how it can educate jurisdictions to perform more frequent checks and how to prevent licensure theft.

IX. Legislation

A. 2025 Legislative Calendar

Mr. Moore reported that the legislature has been very active since the last meeting, with many bills reaching a final conclusion. He noted that all legislation has now been cleared from both the senate and the assembly.

B. Discussion of Legislation for 2025

1. **Assembly Bill (AB) 667** – Professions and vocations: license examinations; interpreters

Mr. Moore reported that as of September 11, 2025, this bill has moved into inactive status however, the Board decided to continue with a position of “Watch”.

MOTION:	Ms. Haggard and Dr. Amistad moved that the Board take a Watch position on AB 667 as amended August 29, 2025.
VOTE:	9-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Martinez	X				
Vice-President Ruffino				X	
Fel Amistad	X				
Alireza Asgari	X				
Rossana D’Antonio	X				
Desirea Haggard	X				
Tom Hallinan				X	
Michael Hartley	X				
Betsy Mathieson	X				
Wilfredo Sanchez				X	
Fermin Villegas				X	
Cliff Waldeck	X				
Christina Wong	X				

2. **AB 671** – Accelerated restaurant building plan approval

Mr. Moore reported that as of September 11, 2025 both houses have passed this bill and it has been sent on to enrollment.

MOTION:	Ms. Wong and Ms. Haggard moved that the Board take a Watch position on AB 671 as amended August 25, 2025.
VOTE:	9-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Martinez	X				

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

3. **AB 742** – Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves
No action taken.
4. **AB 1341** – Contractors: discipline: building law violations
No action taken.
5. **Senate Bill (SB) 470** – Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing
No action taken.
6. **SB 518** – Descendants of enslaved persons; reparations

MOTION:	Ms. Mathieson and Dr. Amistad moved that the Board take a Watch position on SB 518 as amended September 5, 2025.
VOTE:	9-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Martinez	X				
Vice-President Ruffino				X	
Fel Amistad	X				
Alireza Asgari	X				
Rossana D'Antonio	X				
Desirea Haggard	X				
Tom Hallinan				X	
Michael Hartley	X				
Betsy Mathieson	X				
Wilfredo Sanchez				X	
Fermin Villegas				X	
Cliff Waldeck	X				
Christina Wong	X				

7. **SB 641** – Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions

MOTION:	Ms. Wong and Dr. Amistad moved that the Board take a Watch position on SB 641 as amended September 4, 2025.
----------------	---

VOTE:	9-0, Motion Carried
--------------	---------------------

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Martinez	X				
Vice-President Ruffino				X	
Fel Amistad	X				
Alireza Asgari	X				
Rossana D'Antonio	X				
Desirea Haggard	X				
Tom Hallinan				X	
Michael Hartley	X				
Betsy Mathieson	X				
Wilfredo Sanchez				X	
Fermin Villegas				X	
Cliff Waldeck	X				
Christina Wong	X				

8. SB 861 – Consumer affairs

MOTION:	Mr. Hartley and Ms. Haggard moved that the Board take a Support position on SB 861 as amended September 4, 2025
VOTE:	9-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Martinez	X				
Vice-President Ruffino				X	
Fel Amistad	X				
Alireza Asgari	X				
Rossana D'Antonio	X				
Desirea Haggard	X				
Tom Hallinan				X	
Michael Hartley	X				
Betsy Mathieson	X				
Wilfredo Sanchez				X	
Fermin Villegas				X	
Cliff Waldeck	X				
Christina Wong	X				

X. Executive Officer's Report

A. Rulemaking Status Report

Mr. Moore reported that Item 1 (16 CCR sections 407 and 3005) related to the Board's Fee regulatory package was submitted to Agency for approval on September 3, 2025. Now that this is in the review process, staff will be able to focus on the remaining Rulemaking packages including the UK Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) proposal.

B. Personnel

Mr. Moore reported that the only position available is the Senior Engineering Registrar position. He has seen exams submitted for the position and he looks forward to receiving applications.

C. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

1. Update on ASBOG Annual Fall Meeting, October 13-18, 2025

Mr. Moore reported that the out-of-state travel request is still pending for Ms. Mathieson. He reviewed the materials and consulted with Ms. Mathieson and Mr. Goodwin to see if there was anything controversial and there did not appear to be. He will be attending virtually.

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

1. Report from Annual Meeting, August 19-22, 2025

Ms. D'Antonio reported that she has found a lot of value as she has become more involved with the committees. It was hosted in New Orleans and marked just shy of the 20 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. For her, it was significant given the fact she is an engineer who also spent many years working in emergency management. She noted that the Virginia Board introduced a motion that would expand the Board of Directors to include a voting member representing the MBAs (Member Board Administrators). Currently, there is one representative of the MBA community invited to each Board of Directors meeting and consequently they introduced this motion to try to expand the board. It was not received very well. There are a lot of politics involved and as a result, it was referred back to the MBA committee as a charge for further review and vetting with an expectation that this item may be reintroduced at the 2026 Annual Meeting. The Licensure Committee, which is a fairly new committee, was formed to expand opportunities for licensure, especially in the engineering technologies, professions, and international applicants, which includes the UK Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). Currently there are 10 states that are already implementing the MRA between the UK and the United States and it is meant to recognize professional qualifications across both countries. There are 28 boards that have proclaimed that they intend to participate in the MRA, including CA. So far, four candidates have successfully completed the process as US-based engineers seeking a UK chartered engineer status. Two of those candidates are current NCEES members, Scott Sales from the Arizona Board and Karen Purcell from the Nevada Board. During the annual meeting, they gave a brief presentation on their experience going through the application process. While there are still some issues to resolve, having two U.S. professional engineers now recognized in the UK is a spectacular achievement. Perhaps for the next meeting we could get an update on the status of implementing the MRA here in California.

A couple of presentations that were also noteworthy, is that in this climate where there is an appetite for less regulation, some boards are in danger of being eliminated. Ms. D'Antonio was particularly concerned about the situation in Florida, especially in light of the Champlain Towers collapse. NCEES reported that the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensure (ARPL) is expecting to become more active. They will be hiring lobbyists to be more influential in advocating for licensing boards from the pressure that

may be exerted from the executive branch of the federal government. One of the arguments is to eliminate or consolidate boards as a cost savings measure, yet there is no data to substantiate that and is all anecdotal. The goal for the ARPL will become more active and require some of that data to justify that position. There is quite a significant investment to become involved along with other professional organizations. Some board members from certain states are not allowed to do advocacy. They are actually prohibited from doing so and will most likely have to rely on professional organizations.

Ms. D'Antonio congratulated Carl Josephson as he was honored with the NCEES President's Award for his service. Elizabeth Beckett Johnson from Alaska was sworn in as 2025-26 NCEES President and Samuel Wilson from Maryland was elected NCEES President-Elect.

Ms. Wong shared her experience and noted she is on the Finance Committee and one of the charges is to transfer \$9.4 million from the organization to the NCEES Foundation. She added that she joined the MBA forum session and provided input from a public board member perspective, which was well received. It was not only educational but a great experience.

Mr. Moore reported that NCEES also approved the charge to change the name of Member Board Administrators to Member Board Executives to better align with the titles that we all typically have in our positions. He also recently became aware that since the UK MRA has become effective, there have been about 55 applications submitted to NCEES for the International PE designation from UK Chartered Engineers seeking a US PE license. The majority of them have already been approved and have gone on to apply to various states that are participating, but not all of the applicants have completed their records yet. He found it interesting that only 12 of those applications are associated with civil or structural engineering. The majority of them are electrical, mechanical, and a small percentage of chemical, and fire protection. It is similar in the trends the Board sees with our licenses.

Ms. D'Antonio requested an update on the ability to make the UK MRA official here in California. Mr. Moore indicated that not much has changed as he has been allowing the budget analyst time to focus on other previously approved rulemaking packages and out-of-state travel requests. He anticipates a rulemaking report will be available for the next meeting.

During public comment, Carl Josephson addressed the Board. He began by thanking them for allowing him to continue as an Emeritus Member to NCEES for the Board, which enables him to participate at the national level. He provided an update on the Structural Practice Task Force, which held its first meeting this morning. The Task Force, which received seven charges from President Johnson, will study significant structures and other key topics. Mr. Josephson is particularly interested in the board's decision on these matters. He also raised a long term question, whether the structural engineering license should remain a post PE license. He noted

that in most other states, it is an initial license, and a study on this topic will be presented by the Task Force.

E. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed the tentative 2026 Board meeting calendar, Ms. Wong, Mr. Hartley, Ms. Haggard, and Dr. Asgari requested that the March meeting be moved from March 12 and 13 to March 5 and 6 and Ms. Mathieson requested that the May meeting be moved from May 7 and 8 to May 14 and 15. Ms. Calderone will revise the calendar and present it at the November Board meeting.

During Public Comment, Rob McMillan representing CLSA, delivered a public comment on behalf of Caltrans, extending an open invitation for the Board to hold its meetings at their location in San Diego.

XI. President's Report/Board Member Activities

President Martinez reported that he attended the DCA leadership committee meeting.

Mr. Hartley reported that he and Mr. Sweeney, Senior Land Surveyor Registrar, provided a presentation on the importance of licensure at the annual Fresno State Geomatics Conference. One of the instructors expressed how much the class enjoyed the discussion and would like to make it a regular event.

Ms. Wong attended the NCEES Annual Meeting and will also join an ABET team to participate as an observer in the accreditation process.

XII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of July 24, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION:	Mr. Hartley and Ms. Mathieson moved that the minutes of the July 24, 2025, board meeting be approved.
VOTE:	8-1-0, Motion Carried

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recusal
President Martinez	X				
Vice-President Ruffino				X	
Fel Amistad	X				
Alireza Asgari	X				
Rossana D'Antonio	X				
Desirea Haggard	X				
Tom Hallinan				X	
Michael Hartley	X				
Betsy Mathieson	X				
Wilfredo Sanchez				X	
Fermin Villegas				X	
Cliff Waldeck			X		
Christina Wong	X				

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. Crownholm et al. v. Moore, et al. No. 24-276, cert. pending (filed Sep. 9, 2024), Supreme Court of the United States, Crownholm, et al. v. Moore, et al. (No. 23-15138) (9th Cir. April 16, 2024)
 - 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

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENT

David Schwegel, Vang Inc. Consulting Engineers

Mayeli Santos, Office of Administrative Hearings

Rob McMillan, California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA)

Andrew Johnson, National Society of Professional Engineers – California (NSPE-CA)

Carl Josephson, Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)

PUBLIC PRESENT