

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

Judge Joseph Rattigan Building
50 D Street, Conference Room 410
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Board Members Present:	President Guillermo Martinez; Vice-President Frank Ruffino; Fel Amistad; Alireza Asgari; Rossana D'Antonio; Desirea Haggard; Michael Hartley; Betsy Mathieson; Wilfredo Sanchez; Fermin Villegas; Cliff Waldeck; and Christina Wong
Board Members Absent:	Tom Hallinan
Board Staff Present:	Ric Moore (Executive Officer); Tiffany Criswell (Assistant Executive Officer); Brook Grabowski (Enforcement Manager); Celina Calderone (Board Liaison); and Christopher Pirrone (Legal Counsel)

I. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 9:01 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

During Public Comment, an individual by the name of Keith Mack representing Caltrans introduced himself to the board.

VI. Administration

A. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget Report

Mr. Moore reported on Fiscal Month 3 performance, focusing on renewal variances which were measured against data from the prior two years. Currently, total revenue is 15% higher than it was in 2023/24.

Expenditure projections for the Attorney General's office have been increased due to a sustained rise in enforcement complaints over the last few years, a trend that Budget Analyst Angela Yu and Administrative Manager Dawn Hall are actively monitoring and adjusting projections as a result. This report covers Fiscal Month 3, specific line items reflect the full encumbrance of annual contracts.

The Fund Condition has improved beyond initial expectations. A prior year adjustment added \$432,000 to the fund balance, which is now reflected in the updated revenues. Both application and exam fee income and income from

money investment earnings exceeded projections. Total expenditures were effectively managed and came in lower than anticipated.

Mr. Moore clarified that the term Budget Year refers specifically to the Governor's budget and appropriation.

IV. Hearing on the Petition for Reinstatement of Revoked License of Amin Khalili

This hearing was held on Thursday, November 13, 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).

VII. Enforcement

A. Enforcement Statistical Reports

1. Fiscal Year 2025/26 Update

Ms. Grabowski presented the Enforcement Statistics and opened up discussion. Ms. Wong referenced the data from page 30 comparing Fiscal Years 2023/24 to 2025/26 and inquired about the cause of the significant increase from referral to final decision. Ms. Grabowski noted that the necessity of continuances in certain cases often extends their duration, which consequently impacts the overall average processing time.

Ms. Mathieson reminded staff that the graph on page 26 does not start at zero at the bottom of the vertical axis. Ms. Criswell, Assistant Executive Officer, confirmed that she would take steps to try and address the issue.

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

During Public Comment, Carl Josephson representing SEAOC introduced Krystinne Mica as the new Executive Director of SEAOC.

VIII. Exams/Licensing

A. Examination/Licensing Updates

Mr. Moore reported that Larry Kereszt, Exam Unit manager, will present a report at the next meeting.

IX. Legislation

A. 2025 Legislative Calendar

Mr. Moore reviewed the Legislative Calendar, reporting that the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing presented bills was October 12. The 2026 legislative session is scheduled to re-convene on January 5, 2026.

B. Discussion of Legislation for 2025 (Possible Action)

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

This bill was declared inactive and did not move forward. Some variation of this bill may return in the future. No action taken.

2. **AB 671** – Accelerated restaurant building plan approval
This bill was chaptered. No action taken.
3. **AB 742** – Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves
The Governor vetoed this bill, citing concern that the mandated prioritization would become less effective as the population of applicants qualifying for expedited licensure continues to increase. 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
This bill was chaptered. No action taken.
6. **SB 518** – Descendants of enslaved persons; reparations
This bill was chaptered. No action taken.
7. **SB 641** – Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Real Estate: states of emergency: waivers and exemptions
The Governor vetoed this bill. No action taken.
8. **SB 861** – Consumer affairs
This bill was chaptered. The only change impacting the Board relates to the Section 8764.5 of the Professional Land Surveyors Act. A professional organization recognized that the section outlining the certification required for a Record of Survey which currently mandates a signature, seal, and date lacks a consistent requirement to include the date in the certification language. No action taken.

X. Executive Officer's Report

A. Rulemaking Status Report

Mr. Moore reviewed the Rulemaking Status Report, noting that the packages are currently listed in order of priority based on best recommendations. He encouraged anyone with suggestions for reprioritization to contact him directly.

1. Fees

He reported that this package is further along than anything else and noted that the proposed fees have been a priority over the last two years. It is moving well through the 45-day public comment period and very few comments have been received. He attributes the minimal feedback to the thorough public discussion held during previous Board meetings. He will present the received public comments and recommended responses at the

next meeting. At that time, the Board can approve the final rulemaking package, which will then proceed through DCA (Department of Consumer Affairs), the Governor's office, and OAL (Office of Administrative Law) for final approval. He is optimistic that this bill will become effective July 1, 2026, to align with the renewal period.

2. Experience Requirements

This package concerns legislative changes from several years ago, known as the Section 100 change, which involved renumbering paragraphs. He anticipates that it will pass through the process relatively quickly.

3. Definitions of Negligence and Incompetence and Responsible Charge Criteria for Professional Geologists and Professional Geophysicists

This package was elevated to 3 due to the level of completeness and need to be implemented.

4. Application, References, Computation of Qualifying Experience, and Schedule of Examinations

This is the rulemaking effort to revise the rules to align with transfer of former standalone application forms into the online Connect system.

5. Waiver of the First Division and a portion of Second Division Engineering Examinations

Mr. Moore believes it is crucial to prioritize item 4 ahead of 5, or run them concurrently, asserting that failing to do so will lead to unnecessary obstacles and extended timelines with item 5. There are currently approximately 3-4 chartered engineers in the UK who are interested in licensure in California and are awaiting the outcome of this rulemaking. He has informed these applicants that the full rulemaking process is still projected to take approximately two years.

B. Personnel

Mr. Moore reported that the Board has maintained one vacancy, the Senior Registrar Engineering position. They have received more applications/examinations for review and he and Ms. Criswell will review the available applications and are hopeful to interview for the position.

C. ABET

Ms. Wong shared her experience during her ABET accreditation visit and encourages others to participate. Senior Registrar Engineer Natalie King is also scheduled to attend an ABET visit.

D. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

Mr. Moore, Ms. Mathieson, and Staff Registrar Geologist Joshua Goodwin, who is head of the ASBOG exam committee, attended the event in Salt Lake City, UT. Ms. Mathieson reported that ASBOG is well organized with a lot of

hardworking committees and as a result, by the time you attend the Annual Meeting there is not a lot of controversy. The largest consideration is that over the last two years they have been preparing for the retirement of their psychometrician. Now that he has retired, ASBOG retained a company in lieu of an individual to provide the same services and they were involved in the two-day council of examiners session. There were outside presentations from various organizations such as the American Geological Institute, the American Institute of Petroleum Geologists, and the Geological Society of America. There was a lot of discussion as to where geology licensing is headed. National security and public safety will be at the forefront. The new director of the Geological Society of America (GSA) is developing a certification/assessment. There are three different areas for student participation. One of the areas is Geology without Borders, Energy in the 21st Century, and another regarding planetary geology. Those who will be participating in the program take an exam at the end and will be provided a certificate and a badge for their LinkedIn profile.

E. National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)
 Mr. Moore was notified that the Board will have to name 3 delegates for the 2026 Western Zone meeting by the end of January. This meeting will be held in Bend, OR. Neighboring states are more likely to be approved for out of state travel requests.

During Public Comment, Mr. Josephson said that the Structural Practice Task Force met for the second time. They have six charges; however, they were advised not to discuss the charges with the Board at this time. He is involved in one of charges that will be presented at the Western Zone meeting.

F. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule (**Possible Action**)

MOTION:	Mr. Hartley and Ms. D'Antonio moved to approve the 2026 Board meeting schedule.
VOTE:	12-0, 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				
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G. Update on Outreach Efforts

Mr. Moore reviewed third Quarter outreach events and mentioned that outreach tends to be lighter during the summer months as students and universities are on break.

XI. President's Report/Board Member Activities

Mr. Ruffino presented Carl Josephson, former Board member and current leader of the Structural Engineering Association of California (SEAOC), a resolution from the State Treasurer for his outstanding commitment to the advancement of structural engineering and licensing.

Mr. Ruffino serves on the NCEES Western Zone leadership development committee.

Ms. Wong reported that she is the NCEES Western Zone nominating committee Chair and a member of the NCEES finance committee and she also attended an ABET accreditation visit.

Mr. Hartley and Staff Registrar Dallas Sweeney are scheduled to present at the Geomatics Engineering Conference at Fresno State in January 2026.

XII. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Possible Action)

A. Approval of September 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION:	Mr. Hartley and Ms. Haggard moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2025, board meeting be approved.
VOTE:	9-0-3, 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 2:56 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Craig Copelan, PECG
W. Keith Mack, Caltrans
Carl Josephson, SEAOC
Krystinne Mica, SEAOC