

Support SB 673

Rebuilding trust and
improving permitting at
the Department of Toxic
Substances Control

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SB 673 in a nutshell:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE Improves transparency and responsiveness at DTSC.

PERMITTING CRITERIA Creates standardized criteria for toxic waste permits.

What is SB 673?

SB 673 creates a California Communities Committee to provide DTSC with recommendations for increasing public participation and transparency in its decision-making. SB 673 requires that DTSC adopt permitting criteria to protect vulnerable and over-burdened communities.

Why is it important?

In California, 80 percent of residents living next to a toxic waste facility are people of color. Many of these residents are already overburdened by other polluting land-uses and suffer serious health effects, yet DTSC does not consider the vulnerability of nearby populations or pollution burdens when making permit decisions. The public has lost its confidence in DTSC's ability to protect California residents because it has failed to be transparent and responsive in its permitting and enforcement actions. SB 673 will make DTSC more accountable and responsive to impacted residents by requiring it to regularly communicate and receive recommendations from those directly impacted by hazardous waste and by creating enforceable and standardized permitting criteria that better protect overburdened and vulnerable residents.

