Building an Environmental Equity Framework
Public Outreach Timeline

A. Establishment of Assistant Director for Environmental Justice position
(June 2015)
Established a new position of Assistant Director for Environmental Justice position, which has been expanded to include Tribal Affairs. Serves as an ombudsman for disadvantaged communities and provides leadership in addressing environmental justices concerns.

B. Participation in CalEPA EJ Task Forces:
Los Angeles, Boyle Heights and Pacoima (June 2015 – February 2016)
Oakland (February 2016 – July 2017)
Pomona (February 2018 – July 2018)
Participated in the CalEPA-led multi-agency enforcement to address environmental justice. It combines community consultation, enforcement actions, and compliance assistance for regulated businesses.

C. Report by UC Davis Extension Collaboration Center: Enhancing and Modernizing Public Outreach and Engagement Strategies at DTSC
(October 2015 – January 2017)
Worked with UC Davis Extension Collaboration Center to produce a set of recommendations on public outreach and engagement strategies, based on input from a diverse group of stakeholders, interviews, focus groups, and best practices.

D. Improving the Protectiveness of Permit Decisions - SB 673 Rule Development
(October 2015 – Present)
Track 1: Revised criteria to assess compliance history of a hazardous waste facility, complete health risk assessments, demonstrate financial assurances, better address community concerns, and improve training for employees. Held early meetings with communities and stakeholder groups during initial development.
(March 2017 – Present)
Track 2: Considering criteria for vulnerable populations, cumulative impacts, and setback distances from locations, such as schools, daycare centers and hospitals. Symposia were held in March and July of 2017, additional consultation meetings were held in July and August of 2018, and three workshops are planned for October 2018.

E. Independent Review Panel
(November 2015 – December 2017)
The panel held 28 public meetings over two years to review and make recommendations on improvements to the department's permitting, enforcement, public outreach, and fiscal management. Several meetings were held in different regions across the state, where dozens of public stakeholders and community members provided presentations and input.
F. Establishment of the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs  
(July 2016)  
Received six permanent positions and funding to create an Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs in the 2016 Budget Act to evaluate gaps in policies and procedures and help develop solutions to environmental justice and Tribal concerns.

G. Establishment of separate Office of Public Participation  
(September 2016)  
Elevating this office recognizes the importance of public engagement throughout all DTSC activities.

H. Improving Access to Public Information On DTSC’s Website  
(December 2016 - present)  
Updated online public database (EnviroStor) to improve transparency, provide CalEnviroScreen information, and better track cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts for public access.

I. Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup  
(August 2016 – August 2017)  
Convened 17-member workgroup DTSC that developed diversity and inclusion recommendations for leadership development, employee engagement, and professional accountability.

J. Organizational Health Assessment  
(November 2016 – March 2017)  
Assessment of DTSC’s organizational health and culture based on data from staff, leadership, and organizational best practices. In addition to the Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup, has led to expanded employee engagement and development program, training, and actions plans for improving recruitment and retention across diverse communities.

K. Kettleman Title VI Settlement Agreement  
(August 2016 – present)  
DTSC and CalEPA jointly developed a voluntary resolution with community groups Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice and El Pueblo/People for Clean Air and Water of Kettleman City, under Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act. The agreement is designed to improve public health and environmental quality for people in Kettleman City, and aims to enhance the transparency and rigor of DTSC’s compliance with civil rights laws. Led to revised Department-wide civil rights and language access policies through public input, and support for local initiatives to address EJ issues in Kettleman City.

L. Civil Rights, Language Access, and Tribal Consultation Policies  
(June 2017 – March 2018)
Incorporated public input into revised Civil Rights Policy and Language Access Policy, under the Kettleman Agreement. Finalizing draft Tribal Consultation Policy after receiving input from Tribes and public stakeholders.

Convened three community meetings to dialogue on community perspectives for management of contaminated soil. Developing community guidelines and addressing concerns on community engagement and remedy selection process.

N. Quarterly Public Meetings (March 2018, June 2018, October 2018)
Hosted public meetings to share information about key department efforts, which have included: strategic planning; policies on civil rights, language access, and Tribal consultation; fire response efforts, financial assistance for site investigation and remediation; developments in the Safer Consumer Products Program; criteria for human health risk assessment screening levels; addressing heavy metals in jewelry; California/Mexico border program; and opportunities to engage with DTSC.