



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Hazardous Waste Management Program  
Permitting Division



### FACT SHEET HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY OPERATION PERMIT

**FACILITY NAME:**

Ecobat Resources California, Inc.

**FACILITY ADDRESS:**

720 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
City of Industry, CA 91746

**EPA ID NUMBER:**

CAD066233966

**DOCUMENT DATE:**

July 16, 2024



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## PART I. INTRODUCTION

This Fact Sheet has been prepared by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66271.7 for the Ecobat Resources California, Inc. draft RCRA Hazardous Waste Permit (Draft Permit). The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to set forth the principal facts and the significant factual, legal, methodological and policy questions considered in preparing the Draft Permit.

Ecobat Resources California, Inc. (Permittee), located at 720 South 7th Avenue in the City of Industry, submitted a hazardous waste permit renewal application consisting of a Part A and Part B, (Permit Renewal Application) to DTSC on March 12, 2015. In its Permit Application, the Permittee requested authorization to continue its current hazardous waste management activities. DTSC previously issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Operation and Post Closure Permit to the Permittee (then known as Quemetco, Inc.) on September 15, 2005. DTSC reviewed the Permit Renewal Application and determined it to be technically complete on June 10, 2024.

### Human Health Risk Assessment

The Permit Renewal Application includes an updated Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). The purpose of the HHRA is the following:

- Estimate the extent the Permittee's emissions may contaminate surrounding soils.
- Identify what chemicals are present in the Permittee's emissions.
- Evaluate the increased likelihood of cancer or other health effects to a nearby worker, and an adult and child resident (collectively referred to as receptors) when exposed to the Permittee's emissions in air or soil.

The HHRA utilizes a model approved by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board to estimate the increased risk of cancer and non-cancer health effects to receptors. Chemicals considered in the HHRA include various metals, volatile organic compounds, PCBs, and dioxins and furans. The potential pathways of exposure to these chemicals are hand-to-mouth transfer, skin contact, inhalation of wind-borne particulates, consuming vegetables in contaminated soil, and consuming mother's milk that may have chemicals present.

The HHRA concludes that the highest exposed worker is estimated to have an increased likelihood of cancer at 2 in one million and the highest exposed resident is estimated to have an increased likelihood of 9 in one million. The increased likelihood is largely due to exposure from arsenic, lead, and hexavalent chromium. Arsenic is the primary risk driver and contributes up to 76 percent of this risk. These estimates also consider the maximum annual level of arsenic (6.5 lbs/yr) that the Permittee is permitted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District to emit. Typical annual arsenic emissions from the Facility are significantly lower than the maximum level (sampling data from 2019 indicated annual arsenic emissions to be less than 1 lb/yr).

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The HHRA also concludes that the amount of chemicals that a worker, resident adult, or resident child could be exposed to is less than the amount that would cause non-cancer health effects. Also, potential exposures to estimated concentrations in soil deposited from the Facility's current operations would not cause an increased blood lead level of 1 microgram per deciliter, which is the incremental lead threshold criteria established by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

### Corrective Action

The Draft Permit requires the Permittee to perform corrective action and does not limit any liability or obligation for the Permittee to perform corrective action including beyond the Facility boundary. Currently, DTSC and the Permittee have a 2020 Corrective Action Consent Agreement. The Draft Permit requires the Permittee to carry out corrective action under the Corrective Action Consent Agreement, and any other applicable agreements or orders, including onsite and offsite. Below is a summary of the recent and ongoing offsite investigations and other response actions.

The Permittee submitted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) Report dated May 2017 to DTSC. The report was modified in July 2017, and again in October 2018. The report provided the results and evaluation of soil samples that were taken within a quarter mile radius of the Facility and in selected background locations. Based on the results, the Permittee determined areas immediately adjacent to the Facility that had high levels of lead were likely impacted by activities associated with the Facility. The Permittee labeled these areas as Quemetco Impacted Areas (QIA) (at that time, the Permittee was named Quemetco) and submitted a workplan to excavate the contaminated soil and replace it with clean soil. The excavation was completed in two phases and documented in two separate DTSC-approved Interim Measure Completion Reports - Phase I dated September 11, 2020 and Phase II dated May 18, 2021.

The Permittee also asserted, based on the results of the RCRA RFI Report, that levels of lead found in the samples in residential locations beyond the QIA were similar to what was found in the background locations and concluded: a) that these areas were not impacted by the Permittee's operations and, b) no further investigations were warranted. DTSC disagreed with the Permittee's conclusions and stated they were not fully supported by the data, in significant part because an insufficient number of samples were taken, but also because the RFI Report did not evaluate the relationship between the full range of metals that may be associated with the Facility's releases, and for other reasons.

To address DTSC's concerns, the Permittee agreed, as part of the Corrective Action Consent Agreement, to conduct sampling along eleven transects in the vicinity of the Facility in the public rights-of-way. A total of 391 soil samples were taken and the Permittee submitted the results to DTSC in a Transect Sampling Data and Analysis Report dated May 3, 2021. In this report, the Permittee asserted that lead concentrations do not show a decreasing trend with increasing distance away from the Facility and that lead concentrations remain comparable to the background areas. DTSC has not concurred with those assertions, and notes that not all sampling contemplated by the transect

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workplan was completed (largely due to property access issues) which hinders the ability to draw definitive conclusions from what was collected.

DTSC’s evaluation of the transect sampling report and other sampling reports has revealed data gaps that hinder DTSC’s ability to reach definitive conclusions regarding whether the facility’s past releases contributed to contamination in surrounding areas outside of the QIA. Accordingly, the Draft Permit requires Ecobat to address those data gaps as a condition, in accordance with the Corrective Action Consent Agreement. Once DTSC has completed its evaluation of the 2021 transect sampling report and the information to be gathered, the Permittee may be required to address other data gaps and/or undertake additional corrective action. The additional sampling is warranted for various reasons, including but not limited to the following: (1) it will improve spatial density to allow a more thorough evaluation of the lateral extent of lead and other metals in soil in areas lacking samples in proximity to samples from earlier investigations with elevated lead concentrations; (2) collecting samples at multiple depths (to augment the predominantly shallow-only depths from prior sampling) will provide increased data quality by mitigating the potential effect of soil erosion from rain or wind and will allow consideration of the vertical trend of lead (and other metals) concentrations as an aid in evaluating the potential deposition mechanisms; (3) analyzing all the samples for a full suite of analytes (not done previously) will allow a more thorough evaluation of trends in lead with reference to other metal concentrations; and (4) laboratory analysis of all the samples will provide more precise and comprehensive analytical results to augment the predominant (approximately 90%) XRF (i.e., non-laboratory) results from prior sampling.

This Draft Permit also requires ongoing soil sampling to be conducted in the QIA in accordance with the Aerially Deposited Sampling Work Plan dated June 4, 2022. This sampling in the QIA must be conducted during the duration of the permit term. This, in addition to the results of the HHRA, is to assist in monitoring whether the Permittee’s current operations are affecting human health and the surrounding environment. If the ongoing sampling indicates that soil in areas where contamination was previously removed is again contaminated or show increasing levels of contaminants, DTSC may take further action, up to and including permit revocation in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.41.

### Compliance History

In accordance with Health and Safety Code section 25186 and California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66271.55(a), DTSC completed a review of the Permittee’s compliance history before making a decision to release the Draft Permit. DTSC determined that the compliance history did not warrant denial of the permit renewal request. Documentation of this review is available as part of the administrative record for this Draft Permit decision. DTSC will continue to review this compliance history before it makes a final decision.

### Permit Term

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Health and Safety Code section 25200(c)(1)(A) states that permits issued by DTSC shall be for a fixed term, which shall not exceed 10 years. Title 22 section 66270.50(c) allows DTSC, when necessary to protect human health and safety or the environment, to issue a permit for a duration that is less than the maximum, allowable 10-year term.

At the Permittee’s facility there were numerous past violations related to DTSC and other agency requirements. Ecobat has committed numerous violations of the HWCL. DTSC’s civil complaint and subsequent 2022 judgement against the Permittee included 26 causes of action involving violations of state hazardous waste control laws. Furthermore, Ecobat is a hazardous waste management facility with a significant amount of interest from the public.

Therefore, DTSC has determined that this Draft Permit will be for a fixed term of 5 years. This 5-year term will result in an earlier assessment of the Permittee’s compliance record and hazardous waste permit application upon a potential renewal submission, public input, and review of the facility conditions in five years instead of ten years. This shorter timeframe is necessary to continue to protect public safety and the environment.

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## Part II. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY

The Facility is an operating secondary lead smelter that recovers lead by reclaiming spent lead-acid batteries and other lead-bearing waste or materials. The Facility is located at 720 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the City of Industry, California. The site is approximately 12 acres.

The Permittee operates a Containment Building, a Battery Storage Area, and numerous tanks and miscellaneous units. All of these hazardous waste management units are identified in the Draft Permit. The following is a description of the activities subject to the Draft Permit.

Spent lead-acid batteries and lead-bearing wastes are received from transporters. The batteries are unloaded by forklift from the transport vehicle and placed directly upon the battery wrecker building dock for immediate processing. If the batteries are not processed immediately, they are transported via forklift to the Battery Storage Area or to the Containment Building to be processed later.

During processing, the batteries are crushed within the battery wrecker building by a Battery Hammer Mill. Upon crushing, crushed battery components are separated in tanks within the battery wrecker building, and the lead-bearing metallic components are conveyed to the Containment Building and consolidated in piles. Contaminated plastic components are washed, dried, and conveyed pneumatically for offsite transportation. The lead-bearing waste is then transferred to the Rotary Kiln, where final drying of the waste occurs.

The waste is then conveyed to the Reverberatory Furnace, at which time the waste is smelted into secondary lead product. The lead product is further refined in an onsite refinery to meet customer specifications. The refinery is not a hazardous waste management unit.

Slag from the Reverberatory Furnace is transferred to the Slag Reduction Furnace, where further treatment occurs to extract secondary lead product. The reduced slag is typically destined for offsite disposal. Reduced slag that continues to have recoverable amounts of lead may again be processed in the Slag Reduction Furnace.

The processes described above generate acidic and lead-bearing liquid, which is re-used in operations or treated in an onsite Wastewater Treatment Plant. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) sewer system pursuant to an industrial wastewater discharge permit issued by LACSD. If after treatment, wastewater does not meet the discharge requirements, it is put back through the wastewater treatment system for retreatment. The Wastewater Treatment Plant also stores stormwater for reuse.

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### PART III. TYPE AND QUANTITY OF WASTES

Spent lead-acid batteries from automobiles and other equipment are the primary waste source the Permittee receives to recover lead. Other lead-bearing waste and scrap metal is also received from offsite sources. The wastes listed in Appendix XI of California Code of Regulations, title 22 (22 CCR), division 4.5, chapter 16 and in the waste analysis plan are allowed to be processed in the lead recovery furnace at the Facility.

The Permittee is proposing to transfer, treat and/or store hazardous wastes with the following hazardous waste codes:

- D002 (corrosive)
- D004 (arsenic)
- D005 (Barium)
- D006 (Cadmium)
- D007 (Chromium)
- D008 (Lead)
- D009 (Mercury)
- D010 (Selenium)
- D011 (Silver)

As stated in Part II above, the Permittee manages the waste in tanks, a Containment Building, miscellaneous units, and a Battery Storage Area. Each of these permitted units have a maximum capacity identified in the Draft Permit. For example, the Draft Permit allows the furnace (a miscellaneous unit) to process a maximum of 600 tons of waste per day.



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## PART IV. BASIS FOR DRAFT PERMIT CONDITIONS

The following section briefly describes the derivation of the conditions of the Draft Permit and the reasons for them. There are three (3) types of conditions in the Draft Permit: General Conditions, Special Conditions, and Conditions for Corrective Action.

### A. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following general conditions are included in Draft Permits to ensure that the Facility will comply with all applicable regulatory requirements and to ensure that its permit is protective of human health and the environment.

#### 1. EFFECT OF PERMIT

- (a) *The Permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of this Permit and the provisions of the Health and Safety Code and California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4.5. The issuance of this Permit by DTSC does not release the Permittee from any liability or duty imposed by federal or state statutes or regulations or local ordinances, except the obligation to obtain this Permit. The Permittee shall obtain the permits required by other governmental agencies, including but not limited to, those required by the applicable land use planning, zoning, hazardous waste, air quality, water quality, and solid waste management laws for the construction and/or operation of the Facility.*
- (b) *The Permittee is permitted to manage hazardous waste in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Permit. Any management or accumulation of hazardous waste that is not specifically authorized in this Permit, or otherwise authorized by law, is strictly prohibited.*
- (c) *This Permit incorporates by reference the conditions applicable to all permits found in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.30.*
- (d) *Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Permit does not constitute a defense to any action brought under any other law governing protection of public health or the environment, including, but not limited to, one brought for any imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment.*
- (e) *DTSC's issuance of this Permit does not prevent DTSC from adopting or amending regulations that impose additional or more stringent requirements than those in existence at the time this Permit is issued and does not prevent the enforcement of these requirements against the Permittee.*

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- (f) *Failure to comply with any term or condition set forth in the Permit in the time or manner specified herein will subject the Permittee to possible enforcement action including but not limited to penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25187.*
- (g) *Pursuant to Health and Safety Code, division 20, chapter 6.5, article 8; California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.43; and California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4.5, chapter 21, article 3, DTSC may revoke or suspend this Permit or suspend the Facility operation for various grounds, including, but not limited to, activities of the Permittee (or any trustee, officer, director, partner, or any person holding 5% of the equity in, or debt liability of, the Permittee's business concern) resulting in any violation of or non-compliance with various environmental statutes and regulations, or federal or state conviction significantly related to the fitness of the permit applicant or the Permittee; any misrepresentation or omission of information in the Permit Application, or during the permit application process, or in information subsequently reported by the Permittee; a determination that conditions may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or safety or the environment; non-payment of any fees, penalties, or costs owed to DTSC; or if a Facility is assigned an unacceptable compliance tier based on its Facility Violations Scoring Procedure (VSP) Score.*
- (h) *In case of conflicts between the Permit Application and the Permit, the Permit conditions take precedence.*
- (i) *This Permit includes and incorporates by reference any conditions of waste discharge requirements issued to the Facility by the State Water Resources Control Board or any of the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards and any conditions imposed pursuant to section 13227 of the Water Code, to the extent such conditions are not less stringent than any requirements or limitations set forth in the Permit. Any changes to the waste discharge requirements that result in changes to conditions of this Permit as listed in Appendix I to chapter 20 of California Code of Regulations, title 22, will require a permit modification in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66270.42.*
- (j) *The Permittee shall report any fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water to DTSC within 24 hours of the incident and shall implement the approved Contingency Plan for any incident that could threaten human health or the environment.*

## 2. ANNUAL HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION AND MINIMIZATION CERTIFICATION

*The Permittee shall certify annually that it has a hazardous waste reduction and minimization program and method in place and shall keep the annual certification as part of its Operating Record in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.73(b)(9).*

## 3. ACCESS

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*DTSC, its contractors, employees, agents, and/or any United States Environmental Protection Agency representatives are authorized to enter and freely move about the Facility for the purposes of interviewing Facility personnel and contractors; inspecting records, operating logs, and contracts relating to the Facility; reviewing progress of the Permittee in carrying out the terms of Part VI of the Permit; conducting such testing sampling, or monitoring as DTSC deems necessary; using a camera, sound recording, or other documentary-type equipment; verifying the reports and data submitted to DTSC by the Permittee; or confirming any other aspect of compliance with this Permit, Health and Safety Code, division 20, chapter 6.5, and California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4.5. The Permittee shall provide DTSC and its representatives access at all reasonable times to the Facility and any other property to which access is required for implementation of any provision of this Permit, Health and Safety Code, division 20, chapter 6.5, and California Code of Regulations, title 22, division 4.5, and shall allow such persons to inspect and copy all records, files, photographs, documents, including all sampling and monitoring data, that pertain to work undertaken pursuant to the entire Permit or undertake any other activity necessary to determine compliance with applicable requirements.*

- (b) *Nothing in this Permit shall limit or otherwise affect DTSC's right to access and entry pursuant to any applicable State or federal laws and regulations.*

## 5. GOVERNMENT LIABILITIES

*The State of California or DTSC shall not be liable for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from acts or omissions by the Permittee or its agents in carrying out activities pursuant to this Permit, nor shall the State of California or DTSC be held as a party to any contract entered into by the Permittee or its agents in carrying out activities pursuant to this Permit.*

## 6. SEVERABILITY

*If any provision, term, or condition of this Permit is for any reason held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions, terms, and conditions of this Permit shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.*

## B. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The following special conditions are included in the Draft Permit to protect human health and the environment and to ensure the operating requirements are clear and enforceable. These conditions may be used to modify and/or supplement conditions listed in the Facility's Part B Permit Application (operation plan).

### **B.1 Unit-Specific Special Conditions**

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### Unit 1- Battery Storage Area

1. *Within 90 days of the approval of this Permit, the Permittee shall complete all activities recommended by the registered engineer in the Revised Work Plan for the Battery Storage Area dated March 28, 2019 and revised November 3, 2020 (Work Plan) included as Attachment 20 to the Permit Application. The Permittee shall provide a written statement signed by an independent, qualified professional engineer, registered in California, indicating that the containment system for the Battery Storage Area is suitably designed to achieve the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.175. The statement must include and describe any changes to the recommendations in the Work Plan.*

This condition was added to help ensure the Permittee completes what was recommended by the engineer in the identified workplan. The workplan recommended the installation of a sump with a pump that would remove any collected liquids from spills, rain, or washdown and pump it through aboveground piping to the wastewater treatment plant.

2. *Adequate aisle space in the Battery Storage Area shall be maintained to allow for the unobstructed movement of personnel, fire protection, spill control equipment, and decontamination equipment, and shall maintain a minimum of 24 inches of aisle space between rows of containers holding or designated to hold hazardous waste.*

This condition was added to help ensure the Permittee complies with 22 CCR section 66264.35. The Permittee states in section D.1.a and D.1.f of the Part B that a minimum aisle space width of 24 inches is maintained in the Battery Storage Area. This Permit reiterates that this will be the minimum width enforced by DTSC.

3. *The Permittee shall not stack containers holding hazardous waste more than two containers high or pallets containing spent lead acid batteries more than two high.*

This condition was added to help ensure the Permittee complies with 22 CCR section 66264.31.

4. *The Permittee shall store all spent lead-acid batteries securely on pallets and the batteries shall be marked with the date they were received.*

This condition was added to help ensure batteries are stored in a safe manner and consistent with the requirements under 22 CCR section 66266.81(a)(7)(D).

5. *Upon detection of damage, the Permittee shall place all damaged spent lead-acid batteries in nonreactive, structurally secure, closed containers capable of preventing the release of acid and lead.*

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This condition was added to help ensure damaged batteries are managed and stored in a safe manner and consistent with the requirements under 22 CCR section 66266.81(b)(1). The Facility has also been cited in the past by DTSC for improper storage of damaged batteries.

This condition was added to help ensure the Facility does not exceed the hazardous waste storage capacity stated in the Permit and to make compliance determinations more consistent.

6. *The Permittee shall not store containers for which all hazardous waste entering the container has an average volatile organic concentration at the point of waste origination of 500 parts per million by weight (ppmw) or more.*
7. *The Permittee shall determine and document the average volatile organic concentration at the point of waste origination using the procedures specified in section 66264.1083(a) and shall review, update and document, as necessary, the determination using the procedures specified in section 66264.1083(a) at least once every 12 months following the date of the initial determination for the hazardous waste streams entering the unit.*

The purpose of conditions 6, and 7 above is to simply reiterate the requirements for managing hazardous waste streams, which the Permittee's permit application states do not have an average volatile organic concentration at the point of waste origination greater than 500 ppmw.

Miscellaneous Units 2, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23.

1. *The Permittee shall not operate the Battery Hammer Mill during times when the ventilation in the enclosed battery wrecker building pressure rises above a negative pressure of 0.02 mm of Hg or other level specified in the Permittee's Title V Permit issued by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.*
2. *The Permittee shall inspect the Battery Hammer Mill for malfunctions and deterioration, operator errors, and discharges which may be causing or may lead to a release of hazardous waste constituents to the environment or a threat to human health. The Permittee shall conduct and document these inspections at least weekly.*

The conditions above for the Battery Hammer Mill (Unit 2) are also for the Battery Wrecker Filter Presses (Units 8 and 9), Plastic Hammer Hill (Unit 14), Gala Centrifugal Pellet Dryer (Unit 17), Centrifuge (Unit 18), Compression Auger (Unit 19), Kiln (Unit 20), Reverberatory Furnace (Unit 22), and the Slag Reduction Furnace (Unit 23). These Units operate in enclosures at the Facility that are kept under negative pressure as required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Miscellaneous Units are required to meet Environmental Performance Standards under 22 CCR section 66264.601. One of the Environmental Performance Standards is the prevention of any release that may have adverse effects on human health or the environment due to migration of waste constituents, hazardous constituents, or reaction products, in the air. The first condition was added to help ensure that if the enclosures that contain these Miscellaneous Units lose their ability to

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maintain appropriate ventilation as required by the SCAQMD, the Miscellaneous Units will stop operating and will not potentially cause any hazardous releases to the air.

The second condition was also added to help ensure that the Miscellaneous Units operate in a protective manner and will not contribute to the potential violation of an Environmental Performance Standard. The practice of weekly documentation of inspections is also consistent with the Permittee's inspection schedule provided in its permit application.

#### Miscellaneous Units 39, and 40.

- 1. The Permittee shall inspect the Wastewater Treatment Filter Press for malfunctions and deterioration, operator errors, and discharges which may be causing or may lead to a release of hazardous waste constituents to the environment or a threat to human health. The Permittee shall conduct and document these inspections at least weekly.*

This condition was also added to help ensure that the Miscellaneous Units operate in a protective manner and will not contribute to the potential violation of an Environmental Performance Standard. The practice of weekly documentation of inspections is also consistent with the Permittee's inspection schedule provided in its permit application.

#### Unit 10 – Battery Wrecker Sump (WS-1)

- 1. The Permittee shall not operate the Battery Wrecker Sump (WS-1) without a continuously functioning pressure-monitoring audible alarm system for the interstitial space between the two steel vessels.*

This condition is specific to the Battery Wrecker Sump (Unit 10 in the Draft Permit). The purpose of this condition is to ensure that leaks from the primary vessel of the tank, which is located underground, can be discovered, investigated, and repaired promptly.

#### Units 25-29 - Tanks 102-105

- 1. The Permittee shall not operate Oxidation Tank 102 until the Permittee provides to DTSC a certification by an independent, qualified, professional engineer registered in California in accordance with section 66270.11(d), attesting that the tank and containment system are suitably designed to achieve the requirements of 22 CCR, chapter 14, article 10.*

This condition above is for Oxidation Tank 102 (Unit 26), Equalization Tank 103 (Unit 27), and Stormwater Tanks 104 (Unit 28) and 105 (Unit 29). Tank assessments for all tanks that store or treat hazardous waste were completed by an independent, qualified, professional engineer registered in California and were included in the Part B Permit Application. Tank assessments completed for Oxidation Tank 102, Equalization Tank 103, and Stormwater Tanks 104 and 105 noted deficiencies in the tank that needed to be addressed before a final certification could be issued. The Permittee has

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not addressed all deficiencies for the tanks addressed by the time of this condition. Therefore, the purpose of this condition is to ensure that the tanks accept hazardous waste only after the deficiencies are resolved and the tank system is certified.

- 2. If the electronic monitoring system for this tank detects any liquid between the new and existing tank bottoms at any of the tanks' four monitoring locations, the Permittee shall implement all the requirements under 22 CCR, chapter 14, section 66264.196(b).*

This is a special condition for Tanks 104 and 105 (Units 28 and 29 in the Draft Permit). Attachment 46 of the Permit Application includes proposals to reinforce the containment systems for these tanks. The proposals state that new tank bottoms will be installed over the existing tank bottoms and the space between the two will be monitored by an electronic monitoring system set approximately 1/8 of an inch above the existing bottom floor to avoid false readings from condensation that may form. The purpose of this condition is to clarify that if the leak detection system detects any liquid, it will be considered a leak from the tank system and that the Permittee must satisfy the requirements under section 66264.196(b). This section provides the process for responding to leaks or spills from tank systems.

#### Unit 20-Containment Building

- 1. The Permittee is authorized to construct the proposed Containment Building floor design provided in Attachment 30 of the approved Part B Application.*
- 2. The Permittee shall not add any hazardous waste to the Containment Building after the effective date of this Permit until the Permittee completes construction of the entire proposed Containment Building floor design provided in Attachment 30 of the Part B Application and submits a certification from an independent, qualified professional engineer, registered in California, certifying that the Containment Building floor was installed in accordance with the design provided in Attachment 30. The certification shall include as-built drawings.*

The Permittee provided in the Part B Permit Application a certification for a proposed Containment Building floor, secondary containment, and leak detection system to replace the current floor and leak detection system. The new floor, secondary containment system and leak detection system are to be constructed on top of the existing secondary containment system, adding an additional layer of protection against releases. The purpose of this condition is to require the Permittee to install the new floor, secondary containment, and leak detection system before any additional hazardous waste is added to the Containment Building, allowing the Permittee to process the hazardous waste remaining in the Containment Building at the time the Permit becomes effective and begin work on replacing the floor.

- 3. The Permittee shall not manage hazardous waste within the Containment Building until the Permittee submits a certification from an independent, qualified professional engineer, registered*

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*in California, certifying that the repairs and retrofits recommended in section 7 of Attachment 49 to the Part B Permit Application have been completed.*

A seismic assessment was completed for the Containment Building and was included as attachment 49 to the Part B Permit Application. In the assessment, the engineer recommended specific repairs for the building. This special condition was added to ensure the Permittee completes the repairs, and to ensure that the containment building is seismically sound.

*4. The Permittee shall not place hazardous waste in piles that exceed the height of the crowd walls.*

As stated in the description of the Containment Building in the Permit and the Part B Permit Application, the Containment Building contains crowd walls. Waste is piled up against the crowd walls. The purpose of this condition is to ensure that the piles do not exceed the height of the crowd walls and potentially spill over the crowd walls. DTSC's Enforcement Division has previously cited the Permittee for having waste piles that exceed the crowd walls height.

*5. All standpipes in the concrete vault that are used to collect liquids from leak detection pipes shall be inspected daily for the presence of liquids. The results of each daily inspection, which shall include, the date of the inspection, the name of the inspector, whether liquid is present, and the volume of any liquid removed, shall be documented in an inspection log and kept for three years from the date the inspection took place. The inspection log shall be made available to DTSC upon request.*

The purpose of this condition is to specify when the Permittee shall inspect the Containment Building leak detection system for the presence of liquid. DTSC's regulations require Containment Buildings to be inspected weekly. However, the leak detection system component of a Containment Building is central to determining whether the primary barrier of the Containment Building is working and that hazardous waste releases to the environment are being prevented. Therefore, a more frequent inspection schedule is necessary.

*6. If any liquid is discovered in any of the standpipes, it shall be removed until the standpipes are empty. The removed liquid shall be tested for pH using Method 9040C and for antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, selenium, and zinc using the Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTLC) test and the Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC) test as outlined in Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods, also known as SW-846. The liquid must be tested for pH as soon as possible and for metals within one week. The results of the tests must be kept for three years from the date the liquid was collected from the standpipes and shall be made available to DTSC upon request.*

The purpose of this condition is to specify what liquid removed from any standpipe should be tested for and by when. This condition is necessary to provide information on possible leaks.



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7. *If more than 2.5 gallons of liquid is removed in one day from the standpipe that detects liquid in the secondary containment system, that shall constitute a condition that could lead to a release of hazardous waste, and the Permittee shall implement the procedures under California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.1101(c)(3).*

The purpose of this condition is to specify and reiterate when actions required under California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.1101(c)(3) to respond to a release from a Containment Building must be implemented. The 2.5 gallons is the “Trigger Leakage Rate” from the engineering certification for the Containment Building floor, which is Attachment 30 of the Part B Permit Application.

8. *The concrete, steel lined sump that collects liquid from atop the sacrificial concrete layer shall be inspected daily for leaks. If the pressure gauge that monitors the pressure between the steel liners drops below 1.0 PSI, it shall be noted in an inspection log and all liquid, if present, shall be removed. The sump shall be inspected, and any source of leaks shall be repaired. The Permittee shall cease adding any liquid to the sump until the repairs are complete.*

This condition was included to specify procedures for inspecting and responding to detected leaks from the sump located within the Containment Building. Just like the leak detection system to the containment building floor, this sump must also be inspected daily for leaks. If the primary vessel is leaking, it must be repaired before it can store any liquid.

## **B.2 Facility-wide Special Conditions**

1. *The Permittee shall conduct annual public meetings every calendar year in a neighborhood within one mile from the Facility to provide interested community members with a summary of all environmental monitoring data and results from the prior year required under this Permit and the Permittee’s Post-Closure Permit. In addition, the Permittee shall provide a summary of any complaints from the public received by the Permittee and any alleged violations issued to the Permittee by environmental agencies, the substance of those violations, and any resolutions or outcomes. Environmental monitoring data shall include, but not be limited to, groundwater monitoring data, surface water monitoring data, soil monitoring data, and air monitoring data collected from the fence line air monitors and stack air monitors at the Facility. At the public meeting, the Permittee shall provide instructions to the public for contacting the Permittee with concerns or complaints. The first public meeting shall occur within 14 months of the effective date of this Permit and the subsequent meetings shall take place within one year after. An announcement for the public meeting shall be sent to DTSC’s Facility mailing list at least 30 days prior to the public meeting and placed on the Facility’s website. The meeting shall be scheduled between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00pm.*

This condition was added to help ensure the public is kept informed on the variety of monitoring data and results, as well as any enforcement activities taken by DTSC or other environmental agencies.

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The Permittee is required to periodically monitor air, surrounding soils, onsite groundwater, and surface water in San Jose Creek. The main purpose is to provide transparency on impacts, if any, to the surrounding community, to ensure the community has the ability to contact the Facility with concerns or complaints.

- 2. Within one year of the effective date of this Permit and every calendar year thereafter, the Permittee shall submit to DSTC a report detailing any complaints from the public received by the Permittee and any alleged violations issued to the Facility by other federal, state, or local environmental agencies. If no complaints or violations were received during a reporting year, the report shall provide such information.*

The purpose of this condition is to allow DTSC to be kept up to date on alleged environmental violations at the Facility and any complaints from the public.

- 3. In the event of an unplanned shutdown of any emission control device, the Permittee shall notify DTSC within one hour. In addition, and within ten days of the notification of the unplanned shutdown, the Permittee shall submit to DTSC any air sampling data taken during the complete duration of the shutdown from all air monitoring equipment at the Facility and a detailed explanation for why the shutdown occurred.*

Although the Facility has back up power capabilities in the case of a power outage, the Facility has periodically had unplanned shutdowns of its emissions control devices. The purpose of this condition is to obtain all available data to help determine any impacts upon human health and the environment due to aerial emissions during shutdowns of emissions control devices.

- 4. For all analyses of waste for purposes of disposal, the Permittee shall only use a laboratory certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Article 3 (commencing with Section 100825) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 101.*

The Permittee operates an onsite laboratory at the Facility. The purpose of this condition is to ensure that if the onsite laboratory or any offsite laboratory is used to determine the proper disposal methods for any hazardous waste managed at the Facility, then the laboratory shall have the certification required by law.

- 5. The Permittee shall sample and test feedstock that is placed in the Kiln for feed to the Reverberatory Furnace once per month to determine whether it exhibits the Toxicity Characteristic of 22 CCR, chapter 11, section 66261.24 for an organic constituent. Testing shall be performed by an independent laboratory certified pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Article 3 (commencing with Section 100825) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 101. Test methods shall follow the procedures specified by the third edition of Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods, SW-846, incorporated by reference in 22 CCR, chapter 10, section 66260.11, or alternative methods that meet or exceed the SW-846 method performance capabilities if SW-846 does not prescribe a method for a particular determination. Results shall be*

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*kept at the Facility for at least three years. If any sample exhibits the Toxicity Characteristic for an organic constituent under section 66261.24, the Permittee shall report the sample results to DTSC within 24 hours. The report shall indicate the date of the sample, the organic constituent(s) that exhibited the characteristic and the reported concentration(s).*

The purpose of this condition is to help ensure that the hazardous waste that is placed in the Facility's lead recovery furnace does not exhibit a characteristic for toxicity under 22 CCR, chapter 11, section 66261.24 for an organic constituent. In accordance with 22 CCR, section 66266.100(c)(3), this is one of the requirements for a lead recovery furnace for it to be exempt from the foremost requirements for hazardous waste boilers or industrial furnaces. 22 CCR section 66266.100(c)(1)(B) states that the feedstock shall be sampled and analyzed ".....as necessary to comply with the requirements....." This condition sets the sampling frequency at once per month. Although the waste streams at the Facility are fairly consistent, the Facility does treat a large amount of hazardous waste daily. A once per month sampling frequency provides a reasonable approach to ensuring the hazardous wastes burned in the furnaces are strictly for lead recovery.

6. *The Permittee shall only process in the Reverberatory Furnace lead-bearing materials or wastes that are listed in both section C.2 of the Part B Permit Application and Appendix XI to chapter 16 of 22 CCR, division 4.5. If the Permittee wishes to process in its Reverberatory Furnace a lead-bearing material or waste that is not in section C.2 of the Part B Permit Application, but is listed in Appendix XI of chapter 16, the Permittee must submit to DTSC within 30 days prior to processing, the one-time written notice required under 22 CCR, section 66266.100(c)(3). In addition, the Permittee must submit a permit modification request in accordance with 22 CCR, section 66270.42(a) to modify Section C of the Part B Permit Application to include the waste or material.*

The purpose of this condition is to reiterate that only the lead-bearing hazardous wastes listed in Appendix XI of 22 CCR, division 4.5, chapter 16 are allowed to be processed in the Facility's furnace and the hazardous waste must also be listed in the waste analysis plan of the Part B. This condition outlines the required process for adding an authorized waste if it is not currently listed in the waste analysis plan.

7. *The Permittee shall conduct loading and unloading operations subject to California Health and Safety Code section 25200.19 in accordance with the procedures provided under section F.4.a of the Part B Permit Application.*

Section 25200.19 of the California Health and Safety Code provides procedures for the unloading and loading of hazardous waste that are to be followed unless they are specified in a permit. The purpose of this condition is to specify the loading and unloading operations the Facility is required to follow. Those procedures are provided in section F.4.a of the Part B Permit Application.

8. *The Permittee shall notify DTSC in writing at least 180 days prior to the date on which the owner or operator expects to begin closure of the Facility. Within 90 days after receiving a notification, the Department may review the closure plan to determine whether any factor has significantly*

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*changed since a prior review was undertaken or determine whether the plan is otherwise adequate or inadequate and may prescribe additional requirements or request modifications to the plan.*

In accordance with 22 CCR section 66264.112(d)(1), the Permittee is required to notify DTSC in writing 45 days prior to the date on which the Permittee expects to begin final closure of the Facility. Under that subsection, DTSC may require up to 180 days if the Department determines that additional time would be required to review and make necessary amendments to the closure plan prior to the initiation of closure. Due to the size and complex nature of this Facility, this permit condition requires the Closure Plan to be submitted 180 days prior to the date on which the Permittee expects to begin closure of the Facility.

9. *The Permittee shall not store any hazardous waste beyond one year unless the Permittee proves to DTSC in advance that such storage is solely for the purpose of accumulating certain quantities as are necessary to facilitate proper recovery, treatment, or disposal pursuant to 22 CCR, section 66268.50.*

This condition was added in accordance with 22 CCR section 66268.50(c) to help ensure the Permittee complies with requirement that it prove to DTSC that storage for over a year of restricted wastes under Title 22 chapter 18 is done solely to facilitate proper recovery, treatment or disposal.

10. *The Permittee shall ensure that containers of hazardous waste at the Facility are closed except when adding or removing waste or conducting an inspection of the contents.*

This condition was added to reinforce the requirement under 22 CCR, section 66264.173(a) that containers are to remain closed when storing hazardous waste unless under specific circumstances.

11. *The Permittee shall notify DTSC within 24 hours of the discovery of any cracks, gaps, or tears in a hazardous waste management unit or a secondary containment system or device. Repairs shall be initiated as soon as possible and completed within one week. Within seven days of discovery, the Permittee shall notify DTSC in writing of the corrective measures that have been taken.*

This condition was added to ensure the Facility complies with 22 CCR, section 66264.175(b)(1) and 66264.193(c)(2) and provides an acceptable timetable for notifying DTSC and returning to compliance.

12. *For the purpose of determining compliance with maximum capacity limitations for storage and for secondary containment, all containers in the authorized units are assumed to be full, and all hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste that is stored or located in an authorized unit shall be included in the calculation for that unit, including any hazardous waste that is covered by the transfer facility exemptions pursuant to 22 CCR, section 66263.18.*

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This condition was added to help ensure the Facility does not exceed the hazardous waste storage capacity stated in the Draft Permit. This method of calculating the storage capacity is safer for DTSC inspectors instead of having them open each container to determine the actual volume of hazardous waste.

*13. The Permittee shall conduct waste sampling activities only within an authorized unit or within a secondary containment system or device of a loading and unloading area designated in the Permit.*

This condition was added to help ensure that any spills of hazardous waste that may result during sampling activities are adequately contained.

*14. The Permittee shall implement the sampling outlined in the Aerially Deposited Metals Sampling Workplan dated June 4, 2022, for the duration of this Permit. All sampling results shall be provided to DTSC within 30 days of the sampling event.*

This condition was added to ensure that the areas identified in the workplan for sampling will continue to be sampled while the Facility is operating under this Permit. This is to help determine whether aerial emissions from the Permittee's operations are impacting the soil in these areas. This information may also help determine whether aerial emissions from the Permittee's operations are impacting soil beyond those areas.

*15. Within 60 days of the effective date of this Permit, the Permittee shall complete the tasks identified in the Revised Work Plan for Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) Berm Improvements (Attachment 47 in the Part B Permit Application) regarding Area 2 of the wastewater treatment plant.*

The purpose of this condition is to ensure the Permittee completes the tasks identified by an independent, qualified professional engineer, registered in California, to add the necessary capacity to the secondary containment in Area 2 of the wastewater treatment plant.

*16. The Permittee shall re-inspect each tank that manages hazardous waste authorized by this Permit and submit a new tank integrity assessment, reviewed and certified by an independent, qualified, professional engineer, registered in California, to DTSC no later than five years from the date of the previous certification and every five years thereafter unless a shorter period is specified by the certifying engineer. At a minimum, the inspection shall be adequate to detect cracks, leaks, corrosion or erosion which may lead to cracks or leaks, or wall thinning, as applicable, and include the emptying of the tank to allow entry and inspection of the interior, when necessary, to detect corrosion or erosion of the tank sides and bottom. After the completion of the assessment, if the tank is found to be unfit for use, the Permittee shall comply with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.196(b).*

For enhanced protection of human health and the environment and to establish some consistency with tank assessment requirements under California Code of Regulations, title 22, section

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66264.192(i)(2), this condition requires each tank to be re-inspected, and a tank integrity assessment be prepared, at least every five years or sooner if specified by the certifying engineer. The condition contains inspection standards from California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.195(e) to establish a minimum standard for the inspection. The condition also emphasizes the need for the Permittee to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66264.196, in the event a tank is unfit for use. This condition applies to all tanks that receive RCRA hazardous waste (existing and new) at the Facility.

*17. Hazardous waste plastic placed in containers for shipment to offsite locations shall be placed into a transport vehicle within 24 hours from when the plastic is removed from GD-1 or other authorized unit at the Facility. The time that the plastic is placed into the container for offsite shipment shall be written in a legible manner on the container or on a label placed on the container. The containers containing hazardous waste plastic for shipment to offsite locations shall be placed on pallets. Rows of the pallets shall maintain a minimum of 24 inches of aisle space between them.*

The purpose of this condition is to set requirements for the loading of hazardous waste plastic onto trailers for transportation offsite. Plastic from spent lead acid battery casings is loaded into truck trailers in the northern area of the battery wrecker building. California Health and Safety Code section 25200.19, subsection (c)(1), states that hazardous waste that is moving from an authorized unit to a transport vehicle shall not be held for any time off the transport vehicle and outside of the authorized unit, except for that incidental period of time that is necessary to safely and effectively move the waste from the authorized unit to the transport vehicle. Once the plastic is dried it can be placed into lined containers before being placed onto the transport vehicle. Before it is placed in a transport vehicle it must be characterized as non-hazardous waste, non-RCRA hazardous waste, or RCRA hazardous waste. This condition clarifies the incidental period of time necessary to load the plastic safely and effectively onto the transport vehicles. It also helps ensure the containers holding the plastic do not come into contact with any liquids on the floor and that the pallets holding the containers have adequate aisle space in accordance with 22 CCR section 66264.35 and as noted in the audit report required by 22 CCR section 66271.56(a)(1)(B).

*18. Within 90 days of the effective date of this permit, the Permittee shall submit to DTSC for approval at least three proposed locations for one ambient air monitoring station in a residential area in Avocado Heights and a protocol to obtain 24-hour average concentrations of lead and arsenic. Upon approval of the location, the Permittee shall secure third-party services to install the air monitoring station and obtain and analyze the samples of lead and arsenic. Samples shall be analyzed by an accredited laboratory. Installation shall be completed, and sampling shall begin within 30 days of DTSC's approval of the location of the ambient air monitoring station. This sampling shall continue for the duration of this Permit unless otherwise directed by DTSC.*

This condition requires the installation of an air monitoring station in a residential area near the Facility to collect data on the air quality in the residential area for DTSC and the public to review. The purpose of the condition is simply to obtain data that will help inform any members of the public who

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are concerned about the air quality near their homes. Avocado Heights was chosen as the area where the air monitoring station must be located because it is the residential area closest to the Facility that is downwind in the general prominent wind direction from the Facility.

*19. The Permittee shall provide weekly on a website accessible to the public the results of all air samples taken from all ambient air monitors located at the fence line of the Facility, 24-hour average concentrations of lead and arsenic from the monitoring station required by special condition 18, and from any air monitoring equipment that takes daily samples from stacks at the Facility.*

This condition, as an extension to the facility-wide special condition 18, was added to ensure the public has access to the air quality data collected by the air monitoring station and the information on the air quality of the residential area where the air monitoring station is located.

### **C. CORRECTIVE ACTION**

The following conditions for corrective action are included in the Draft Permit to require the Facility to conduct corrective action. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25200.10, hazardous waste facility permits shall require corrective action for all releases of hazardous waste or constituents from a solid waste management unit or a hazardous waste management unit at a facility engaged in hazardous waste management, regardless of the time at which waste was released at the facility.

*The Permittee is required to conduct corrective action at the Facility, both onsite and offsite, in accordance with Health and Safety Code sections 25187 and 25200.10. Additionally, the Permittee, has and or is conducting corrective action under the oversight of DTSC pursuant to (1) the January 4, 1988 Consent Decree (CV. 86-6644 RSWL (JRX)) between Quemetco Inc., RSR Corporation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA); (2) the August 17, 1987, Remedial Action Order (Docket No. HWCA 85/86-005) issued by the California Department of Health Services; (3) the November 16, 2018, Enforcement Order for Corrective Action (Docket No. HWCA-FY 18/19-007) issued by DTSC; and (4) the February 11, 2020, Corrective Action Consent Agreement (Docket No. HWCA-FY 19/20-022) between Quemetco Inc. and DTSC.*

*As an additional and immediate requirement of this part of the Permit, Permittee shall, in accordance with the 2020 Corrective Action Consent Agreement, conduct a near-surface soil sampling investigation within an approximate 0.50 to 0.75-mile radius of the facility to fill in various data gaps identified by DTSC so as to augment prior sampling events to date. The scope, timing and deliverables of the sampling investigation are to be established through the provisions of the 2020 Corrective Action Consent Agreement.*

*To the extent that work to be performed pursuant to this part of the Permit must be done on property not owned or controlled by the Permittee, the Permittee shall use its best efforts to obtain access agreements necessary to complete work required by this part of the Permit.*

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*The Permittee is further required to continue to conduct corrective action at the Facility, both onsite and offsite, as directed by DTSC, in accordance with applicable law and the consent decree, remedial action order, enforcement order, corrective action consent agreement, and any other agreements or orders issued or to be issued by DTSC. Nothing in this part of the Permit shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect the Permittee’s liability and obligation to perform corrective action including corrective action beyond the facility boundary.*

The Facility has released hazardous waste or constituents into the environment and where the waste/constituents have come to be located has not yet been fully defined, including for reasons noted in Part I above. Ecobat has been performing corrective action under DTSC’s direction regarding these releases. Corrective action to address these releases, however, has not been completed. The above conditions are included in the Permit to require that Ecobat continue to perform its corrective action obligations.



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#### PART V. JUSTIFICATION FOR VARIANCES OR ALTERNATIVES

Ecobat Resources California, Inc. has not requested nor does the Draft Permit contain any variances to the requirements for the treatment or storage of hazardous waste. DTSC has not proposed any alternatives to the Draft Permit.

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## PART VI. PERMIT DECISION PROCEDURES

DTSC encourages public comments and feedback on the Draft Permit for the Ecobat Resources California, Inc. Facility before a final decision is made. Comments can be mailed or e-mailed to the DTSC staff or sent using the DTSC website listed below any time before the close of the public comment period, which begins on July 16, 2024 and ends on November 18, 2024. A public hearing will be held on September 14, 2024 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for anyone that would like to provide comments or data in person on the Draft Permit. The public hearing will take place at the Hacienda Heights Community and Rec Center located 1234 Valencia Avenue in Hacienda Heights.

A second public hearing will be held in October with the option to participate in-person or virtually. At least 30 days prior to the second public hearing, DTSC will follow-up with details and a link to access this hearing.

After the public comment period has concluded, DTSC will respond to all public comments in writing. DTSC will notify the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision. This notice shall include a reference to the procedures for appealing a decision on a permit.

Sam Coe  
Project Manager  
Permitting Division  
8800 Cal Center Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
Telephone - 916-255-3587

Or

[Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Sam.Coe@dtsc.ca.gov)

[www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecobat-public-comment/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ecobat-public-comment/)