

California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board

April 13, 2026

Agenda Item No. 12 Information Item – Staff Report

SB 254 (2025) Statewide Education and Outreach Implementation Plan

PRESENTER

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SUMMARY

The Board's Education and Outreach unit (E&O unit) is conducting research to inform planning of statewide outreach efforts, which will be focused on making stakeholders aware of changes to the law once regulations for Planning and Design and Locator Workload Threshold are adopted.

During the development of those regulations, the Board's Policy unit is facilitating opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the Board. The E&O unit has conducted outreach to make stakeholders aware of these opportunities, and the results of that outreach are detailed in this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2020 Strategic Plan Objective: Improve Compliance by Reaching Parties in Effective Ways
Strategic Activity: SB 254 Statewide Education and Outreach

BACKGROUND

Government Code section [4216.12\(b\)\(1\)](#) requires the Board to coordinate education and outreach activities that encourage safe excavation practices.

Senate Bill 254 (2025-2026) (SB 254 (2025)) became effective on September 19, 2025 and made immediate changes to the Dig Safe Act within section [4216.1](#).

In November 2025, the Board approved the 2026-2027 Workplan¹, including the Education and Outreach initiative to implement statewide education and outreach plans specifically addressing public engagement opportunities and new responsibilities to support the Board's work to draft and adopt regulations for Planning and Design and Locator Workload Threshold by July 1, 2027.

¹ Underground Safety Board Business Meeting, November 9-10, 2025: [Item 04: 2026-2027 Workplan](#)

At the Board's February 2026 meeting, a four-phase SB 254 (2025) statewide education and outreach implementation plan was presented, along with results from recently completely outreach activities.

RECENT STATEWIDE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

The E&O unit is currently working through Phase 1 of the implementation plan, which includes outreach to support Policy engagement opportunities to ensure that the public is engaged in and informed of workshops, surveys, and other ways to participate in the development of regulations for Planning and Design and Locator Workload Threshold.

Planning and Design

The Policy unit facilitated a Planning and Design workshop on February 24, 2026. The workshop was available to attend in-person in Sacramento or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

February Planning and Design Workshop Results

The E&O unit conducted stakeholder outreach that utilized emails, phone calls, and social media to raise awareness about the workshop:

- Forty-nine professional associations and 25 engineering firms were contacted through emails and/or phone calls to ask for their partnership in promoting the workshop and participation from their members and staff.
 - Of the 49 professional associations contacted, 33 were civil and sub-utility engineering associations whose combined membership numbers exceed 200,000

The workshop was also promoted through partners, including the Underground Service Alert of Southern California (DigAlert), and the Underground Service Alert of Northern California & Nevada (USA North).

After receiving information about the workshop from E&O staff, the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange, which serves 1,100 member companies,² included the workshop information and the Board's SB 254 (2025) resources in their February 18, 2026 newsletter, the [SRBxpress](#).

Teams Webinar Registration Summary

Registration for the workshop was not required but was available as an option through our Teams Webinar registration form. Those who registered for the workshop immediately received a confirmation email and they also received a reminder email one hour before the start time of the workshop.

A total of 75 people opted to register for the workshop:

- 46 of those who registered were confirmed to have attended the workshop virtually.

² Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange website About page: <https://www.srbx.org/about.html>

- 1 of those registered attended the workshop in-person.

While the source for all registrations was not collected, analyzing the registration dates and times shows that some registration was driven by Board outreach efforts as follows:

- 16 people registered following the Notice and Agenda e-filing
- 17 people registered following the emails to the Board’s subscriber list
- 42 people registered following targeted outreach

In-Person and Virtual Workshop Attendance Summary

A total of 82 people attended the workshop, not including Energy Safety staff.

- 6 in-person attendees
- 76 virtual attendees³

The following stakeholder categories were represented⁴:

| Stakeholder Category | Number of Attendees (includes both in person and virtual) | Percent of Total Attendees |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Utility Owner/Utility Operator | 33 | 40% |
| Other | 17 | 21% |
| 811 Notification Center | 10 | 12% |
| Excavator | 7 | 9% |
| Engineer/Utility Design | 5 | 6% |
| Locator | 4 | 5% |
| Local Government | 4 | 5% |

Virtual Workshop Attendance Location Summary

While virtual workshop participants were not required to provide company or location information, analysis of data that was voluntarily provided shows engagement trends throughout California as follows:

- The highest participation was noted in the general Southern California area, followed by Northern California, and then Central California.

³ Virtual attendees: This value shows the number of unique logins, meaning the count reflects individual devices used to access the webinar. Some participants may have viewed the webinar as a group from a single computer or phone.

⁴ Stakeholder category information is not available for all attendees; therefore, the sum of the number of attendees included in this chart will not be equal to the total number of workshop attendees and the sum of percent of total attendees will not be equal to 100%.

Locator Workload Threshold

The Policy unit released the *Managing 811 Ticket Surges and Marking Timeliness* survey on March 3, 2026, and closed the survey on March 16, 2026.

The E&O unit conducted stakeholder outreach that utilized emails to encourage utility operators and locators to complete the survey and to share the survey with their networks:

- Staff emailed 78 utility operators and 11 locators to ask for their partnership in promoting the survey and participation from their members and staff.

A total of 98 people completed the survey. While data on how a participant heard about the survey was not collected, analyzing survey submission dates and times shows that some participation was driven by Board outreach efforts as follows:

- 72 people took the survey following the email to the Board’s subscriber list
- 26 people took the survey following the targeted email outreach

The survey collected information on the respondent’s industry category, and analysis of that data shows in-house locators had the largest representation survey respondents.

| Stakeholder Category | Number of Responders | Percent of Total Responders |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| In-house Locator | 32 | 33% |
| Operator and Excavator | 31 | 32% |
| Other | 19 | 20% |
| Operator Only | 12 | 12% |
| Third-party locator | 3 | 3% |
| Excavator Only | 0 | 0% |

The survey also collected information on the respondent’s primary location based on respondent interpretation. Using a multiple-choice option, the question asked, “What is your primary service area?”. The analysis of that data shows that Southern California had the largest number of survey respondents.

| Primary Location | Number of Responders | Percent of Total Responders |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Southern California | 36 | 37% |
| Northern California | 31 | 32% |
| Central California | 17 | 17% |
| Other | 9 | 9% |
| Statewide | 5 | 5% |

Key Themes and Early Regulatory Insights

Stakeholder outreach conducted to-date has provided early insight into how affected parties continue to be interested in public engagement opportunities for the implementation of SB 254 (2025). While outreach efforts are ongoing, several preliminary themes have emerged from workshop & survey participation and stakeholder interactions:

- **Engagement Varies by Region:**

Workshop and survey data suggests that there is currently higher participation from stakeholders in Southern California, followed by Northern California, and then Central California. This information will assist the E&O unit in determining outreach strategies for future education and awareness initiatives.

- **Interest in Public Engagement Opportunities:**

Stakeholders have continued to demonstrate strong interest in the development of regulations for Planning & Design and Locator Workload Threshold by providing feedback during public engagement opportunities. Though attendance for the second workshop was lower than attendance for the first workshop, it still had higher than average participation for Board workshops. Participation in the survey was also high, with 98 people completing the Locator Workload Threshold.

These early insights will help inform future education and outreach efforts and will continue to be shared with the Policy unit and Board Committees to support ongoing regulatory development.

SB 254 (2025) STATEWIDE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The E&O unit is currently preparing for Phase 2 of the implementation plan, which includes development of a statewide Awareness Campaign to inform the public about changes to the law that take effect when new regulations are adopted.

Statewide and nationwide research is being done, and data is being collected and analyzed to inform the campaign development and its goal to reach a diverse array of stakeholders.

Regarding utility and civil engineers who are targeted for the Planning and Design regulatory language development, for example, staff collected information which can be used to identify areas for potential partnership and collaboration:

- There are 8 major professional engineering associations throughout California that serve various audiences either statewide or regionally
- These associations have a combined member base of over 155,000 engineers
- Each association has a newsletter that is either monthly or quarterly, as well as a mailing list

CONCLUSION

The Board's statewide outreach efforts are supporting public participation in the regulatory development process for Planning and Design and Locator Workload Threshold and increasing stakeholder awareness of recent and upcoming changes to the law.

APPENDIX

Excerpt from the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange February 18, 2026 newsletter, the [SRBxpress](#), which includes information about the February 24, 2026 Planning and Design workshop and the Board's SB 254 (2025) resources.



SRBX
A LEGACY BUILT TO LAST

SRBX PRESS

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL BUILDERS EXCHANGE



What you need to know for February 18, 2026

Women In Construction Week!

SRBX & CIEF
WOMEN
IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK!
PRESENTED BY
KITCHELL

BRUNCH & RESOLUTION CELEBRATION
STATE CAPITOL STEPS | SACRAMENTO, CA
MARCH 5, 2026

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION 9:00 A.M.
RESOLUTION READING | 10:00 A.M. BRUNCH

Join us as we take over the West Steps of the State Capitol and celebrate Women in Construction Week!

Attendees will be treated to a delicious brunch and hear from elected officials and will have the option of attending the resolution presentation in the State Assembly and State Senate celebrating Women in Construction Week prior to the event (limited space). Your ticket includes brunch, speakers, and a digital group photo.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [APPLY](#)



Underground Safety Board Planning and Design Workshop

February 24, 2026
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Visit the event page
In-Person Attendance:
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P St.
Second floor, Room 2-302 A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Virtual Attendance:
Register for the Meeting

Information regarding SB 254
SB 254 transitions California's planning and design process from a voluntary coordination effort into a mandatory, regulated framework. Under this law, the Board must define timelines, processes, and data standards governing how project designers, excavators, and utility operators exchange information prior to excavation. The Board is required to adopt regulations for a planning and design information exchange by July 1, 2027. Your members' early and consistent engagement will directly shape these standardized procedures.

Board Resources Related to SB 254

- **Jan 6 Workshop** - The Underground Safety Board Meeting held its first SB 254 Workshop on January 6, 2026. The recording of this workshop and materials presented are now available for viewing.
- **SB 254 Information Bulletin** - This Information Bulletin alerts stakeholders of recent changes to excavation law.

MVP

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