



# Underground Storage Tank Program

## December 2025 Update

### Single-Walled UST Closure

Title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations), section 2670(f), requires an owner or operator to submit a UST closure proposal at least 30 days prior to closure, or within a shorter timeframe if approved by the Unified Program Agency (UPA). Given the permanent closure deadline for all single-walled USTs is December 31, 2025, owners or operators of single-walled UST systems who have not yet submitted a closure proposal must do so by December 2, 2025. UPAs are encouraged to notify owners and operators immediately to ensure the closure proposal timeframe and permanent closure deadline are met.

Single-walled USTs and non-exempt single-walled piping that are not permanently closed by December 31, 2025, will be out of compliance and cannot be operated. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) recommends that UPAs cite at least the following violations for facilities that have not met the permanent closure requirement:

- 1) Failure to obtain or retain a valid permit to operate from the UPA (UST Program Violation 2011010); and
- 2) Failure of the UST system to be designed and constructed with an interstitial monitoring device or visual monitoring method (UST Program Violation 2061001).

Additionally, the State Water Board expects UPAs to proceed with enforcement actions, including affixing red tags and pursuing penalties of \$500 to \$5,000 per tank per day of violation<sup>1</sup> for all remaining single-walled USTs and non-exempt single-walled piping beginning January 1, 2026. UPAs may also refer enforcement matters to their city attorney, county counsel, or district attorney to pursue the civil penalties described above.

For questions regarding single-walled USTs, or for assistance with enforcement, contact: Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or [Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> see H&SC 6.7, section 25299(a) and (b)

## Final Single-Walled UST Survey

On December 1, 2025, the State Water Board distributed the final single-walled UST follow-up survey to UPAs with single-walled USTs in their jurisdiction. The survey requests information on the remaining single-walled UST facilities within each UPA's jurisdiction and the status of the closure process they are in. The State Water Board requests that the survey responses be returned by December 5, 2025. The survey results will be posted on the [single-walled UST webpage](#).<sup>2</sup>

For additional information regarding the single-walled UST surveys, contact: Johnny Wales at (804) 852-7274 or [Johnny.Wales@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Johnny.Wales@Waterboards.ca.gov)

## Red Tag Authority Under Proposed Regulations

The UST Regulations, effective January 1, 2026, clarify the State Water Board's role in affixing red tags to non-compliant USTs. The State Water Board has the authority to red tag non-compliant USTs and require the owner or operator to empty them. The State Water Board is required to notify, consult and coordinate with the UPA until the red tag is removed or the UST has been properly closed. Additionally, the State Water Board may request the UPA remove red tags on the State Water Board's behalf.

For additional information on red tag authority under the proposed regulations, contact: Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov)

For information on the State Water Board's red tag authority, contact: Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or [Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)

## Gasoline Containing 15 Percent Ethanol – Incompatibility Map

The [November UST Program Update](#)<sup>3</sup> discussed amendments to the Health and Safety Code (H&SC) that now allow the sale of gasoline blends containing up to 15 percent ethanol by volume (E15) in California. As a reminder, owners and operators planning to store E15 must demonstrate compatibility with E15 in accordance with UST Regulations and submit appropriate documentation prior to changing the fuel to E15.

It is estimated that approximately 5,000 USTs in California are incompatible with fuels containing more than 10 percent ethanol (E10). The State Water Board has created a [E15 Incompatible Tank Locations](#)<sup>4</sup> map that identifies where the incompatible UST

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/single\\_walled.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/single_walled.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak\\_prevention/updates/docs/2025/november-2025-ust.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/updates/docs/2025/november-2025-ust.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=1e28d0a76e6f46228e38e28e6d5da519>

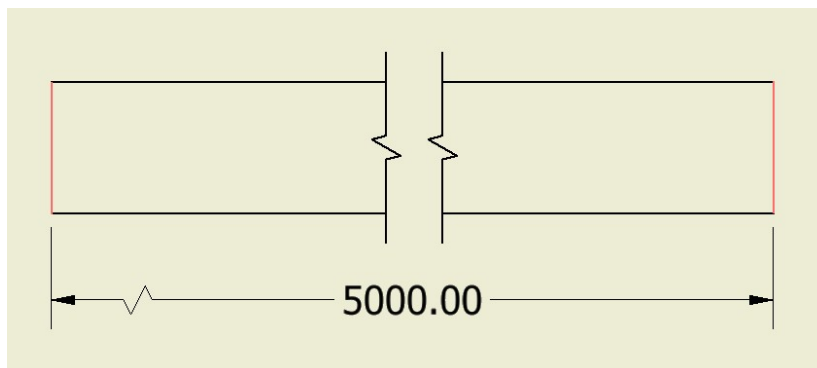
systems are located throughout California. UPAs should review this map to determine whether any E15 incompatible USTs fall within their jurisdiction.

For questions regarding E15 gasoline or compatibility, please contact: Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or [Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov)

## Updates to Monitoring Site Plan Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2026, a facility's monitoring site plan must include a scaled diagram showing the layout of the tanks and piping (including containment sumps), the locations of all release detection equipment, and each vacuum, pressure, or hydrostatically (VPH) monitoring zone, if applicable.

Currently, facilities submit a scaled diagram as part of their permit application. Under the new UST Regulations, an existing scaled diagram can be used as the monitoring site plan if it is updated to include release detection equipment locations and the different VPH zones. If a new monitoring site plan is required, the new UST regulations do not restrict the drafting method, provided the diagram is to scale. For larger facilities, a scale break may be used to display long piping runs, as shown in the graphic below.



For additional information regarding monitoring site plan requirements, please contact: Austin Lemire--Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov)

## Clean up Oversight Agencies

The State Water Board has received several questions regarding sampling requirements under the updated UST regulations for UST closures. The new regulations specify that UPAs should contact their Cleanup Oversight Agency (COA) to confirm appropriate sampling procedures. To assist the UPAs in identifying the appropriate COA, a [map](#)<sup>5</sup> has been created that includes the contact information for the Regional Board COAs.

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<sup>5</sup><https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=69e4afaae0e94bdf98eceed3f0ad8d69>

Important note: If your COA is a Local Oversight Program (LOP), it is not currently listed on this map. However, if you are located in one of the following counties, please contact the individual specified below:

Alameda County: Paresh Khatri ([Paresh.khatri@acgov.org](mailto:Paresh.khatri@acgov.org))

Orange County: Geniece Higgins ([Ghiggins@ochca.com](mailto:Ghiggins@ochca.com))

Sacramento County: David Von Aspern ([VonAspernD@saccounty.gov](mailto:VonAspernD@saccounty.gov))

San Mateo County: Jacob Madden ([jmadden@smcgov.org](mailto:jmadden@smcgov.org))

Santa Clara County: Travis Flora ([travis.flora@deh.sccgov.org](mailto:travis.flora@deh.sccgov.org))

For questions regarding COAs or UST Sampling, please contact: Dayna Cordano at (916) 341-5385 or [Dayna.Cordano@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dayna.Cordano@Waterboards.ca.gov)

## **Amendment to Health and Safety Code**

Assembly Bill (AB) 1459 has amended H&SC 6.7, section 25281 effective January 1, 2026. The amended version of H&SC 6.7 is available [here on the State Water Board website](#).<sup>6</sup> The amendment modifies the definition of underground storage tank to exclude high-voltage electrical conduit lines that incorporate dielectric fluid for thermal regulation, and excludes the associated thermal regulation.

For additional information regarding AB 1459, contact:

Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or [Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov).

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak\\_prevention/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/)