



Underground Storage Tank Program

August 2026 Update

Tanks with Openings Outside of Sump Collars

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is aware of newly installed underground ground storage tanks (USTs) with tank top openings that are in direct contact with backfill rather than located within a sump. These installations do not comply with the interstitial release detection requirements in Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7 (H&SC), section 25290.1(e) and must be retrofitted to achieve compliance. Section 25290.1(e) requires USTs installed on or after July 1, 2004, utilize continuous vacuum, pressure, or hydrostatic (VPH) interstitial monitoring. To meet these requirements, tank top openings must be contained within a VPH monitored sump.

When reviewing plans for new installations, Unified Program Agency (UPA) inspectors should verify that all tank top openings are contained within a sump collar. USTs delivered with tank top openings outside of the sump collars should be identified and immediately addressed to prevent construction delays and additional costs. UPAs should review any recent UST installations for USTs with tank top openings in direct contact with backfill so they can be repaired as soon as possible.

For more information regarding secondary containment, contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Report 6 Due September 1, 2026

The State Water Board recently distributed the Report 6 forms and instructions to all UPAs for the reporting period of January 1 through June 30, 2026. UPAs must submit the completed Report 6 no later than September 1, 2026.

If inaccurate Report 6 data is submitted, it will be returned to the UPA for correction. Corrected Report 6 submissions must also be received by the September 1, 2026, deadline to avoid being late.

Beginning with this reporting period, UPAs must report any UST that was in Temporary Closure at any time during the reporting period. This supersedes the previous requirement to report only USTs that remained in Temporary Closure at the close of the reporting period.

UPAs must continue to report field constructed tanks, facilities with USTs that have received red tags, and facilities that have abandoned USTs.

For more information regarding Report 6 requirements, contact Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov.

Abandoned Tank Reporting

California Code of Regulations, title 23, Chapter 16 (Title 23) defines an abandoned UST as a system that has not had a functioning release detection system for more than 365 days, does not have a current operating permit, is not permanently or temporarily closed, and is not classified as a decommissioned tank. All abandoned USTs must be reported as part of the Report 6 submission.

The State Water Board's UST Leak Prevention Unit and the Office of Enforcement maintain independent inventories of abandoned UST facilities and reconcile these records at the close of each Report 6 reporting period. These comparisons continue to identify numerous abandoned UST facilities that were not reported in Report 6.

The State Water Board includes a list of the most recently identified abandoned USTs for each UPA with the Report 6 email. UPAs must review and verify the list and submit any corrections or updates with their Report 6 submittal, including the facility name, CERS tank ID, number of abandoned USTs at the facility, and the date the abandoned UST was reported to the UPA. Evaluation staff will review whether UPAs are reporting all abandoned USTs as part of the Report 6 submission. UPAs that do not report all abandoned USTs may be issued a deficiency or incidental finding.

An abandoned UST may return to operation only after meeting the requirements outlined in section 2682(c). Specifically, the UST must be equipped with continuous VPH interstitial monitoring and pass the Enhanced Leak Detection Test required by section 2662(b)(2) before returning to service.

For information on when to report an abandoned UST to CERS, reference CERS FAQ: [Should abandoned USTs be reported in CERS?](#)¹

For additional information regarding abandoned tanks and reporting requirements, contact Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5780 or Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov.

For additional information regarding abandoned USTs and enforcement, contact Jesse Stovall at (916) 341-5279 or Jesse.Stovall@waterboards.ca.gov, or Johnny Wales at (804) 852-7274 or Johnny.Wales@waterboards.ca.gov.

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/ru06_abandoned_usts.html

Request to Submit Abstracts: 29th Annual CUPA Conference

The California Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Forum is requesting abstracts for the 2027 CUPA Conference. Abstracts must be submitted through the [CUPA Forum website](#)² by September 25, 2026. Please note that speaker biographies must be submitted and approved prior to submitting an abstract.

The State Water Board will be providing fewer UST track presentations at the conference, creating additional opportunities for CUPA staff to provide UST presentations and share their expertise to help ensure a successful conference. The State Water Board recognizes that presenting at the conference is a significant commitment for both UPA management and the individual presenter. UPAs that meet their program obligations while also contributing as presenters at the CUPA Conference will be recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the UST program.

For additional information regarding abstracts for the 29th Annual CUPA Conference, contact Kaitlin Cottrell at (916) 319-0742 or Kaitlin.Cottrell@waterboards.ca.gov.

Single-Walled UST Survey

On July 20, 2026, the Office of Enforcement, UST Enforcement Unit distributed follow-up surveys to UPAs with single-walled USTs within their jurisdiction. The data collected from the follow-up survey has been updated on the [single-walled UST map](#)³ on the UST Enforcement Unit's [single-walled UST webpage](#).⁴

As of July 28, 2026, a preliminary review of the survey indicates California has:

- 21 single-walled facilities with 57 single-walled UST systems unresolved
- 41 single-walled UST systems are red tagged
- 12 single-walled facilities have not applied for a closure permit
- 6 facilities with 11 single-walled emergency tank systems remain unresolved
- 2 facilities are government-owned with 7 single-walled emergency tank systems

The UST Enforcement Unit will continue tracking the permanent closure progress and support UPAs with enforcement of the remaining single-walled USTs. The State Water Board's evaluation staff will continue to verify that UPAs' enforcement actions against single-walled UST owners and operators are consistent with their Inspection and Enforcement Plan.

For questions regarding single-walled UST enforcement, contact Jessica Ibbetson at (916) 341-5744 or Jessica.Ibbetson@waterboards.ca.gov, or Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

² <https://calcupa.org/submit-abstracts/index.html>

³ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0167aef5ced240ddb27331f6988dc8b2>

⁴ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/enforcement/swust.html