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California Environmental Protection Agency

NEWS RELEASE

State Water Resources Control Board

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Gray Davis
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STATE WATER BOARD ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK COMPLIANCE SURVEY

SACRAMENTO -- Compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) Underground Storage Tank (UST) replacement program is at 97 percent, according to a recent Water Board survey of the 99 local UST implementing agencies.

Of the 55,345 underground tanks in California, 43,015 tanks have been upgraded or replaced and 10,430 are empty and are either in temporary or permanent closure. There are currently 1,900 substandard tanks now out of compliance that are storing product. Enforcement measures to address owners or operators of tanks not in compliance is handled by the local agency.

The deadline for replacing, upgrading or removing underground tanks that store petroleum or hazardous substances was Dec. 22, 1998. This deadline could be met by either replacing any older, single-walled tank, upgrading an existing tank, provided it was intact, by lining it, or emptying the tank and putting it in temporary closure.

The deadline had been set more than 10 years ago by provisions of the federal UST regulations. Those provisions were then codified into law in California, giving gasoline station owners until the December 1998 deadline to have their work completed.

Water Board staff is confident that the 97 percent compliance will continue to hold as the final few agencies submit their findings. The survey form was mailed the end of January with a deadline of March 1 for submittal.

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- 2 -

Date

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