



UST Program Update August 2023

Informational Webinars on the Chapter 16 Rewrite

As part of the California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (Underground Storage Tank Regulations) rewrite, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is inviting underground storage tank (UST) stakeholders to attend upcoming webinars that will review proposed changes prior submitting the rulemaking in the fall of 2024. The webinars will cover proposed definitions, certification and licensing, construction, monitoring, and testing standards and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions regarding the proposed regulations.

The webinars will be held at the dates and times below and are open to the first 300 participants that log in. The webinars will have translation services available in both Spanish and Hindi. There is no reason to attend more than one webinar as each will cover the same material.

- **September 14, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **September 19, 2023, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **September 27, 2023, from 11:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

For more information regarding informational regulations webinars, contact:
Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Report 6 Due September 1, 2023

The State Water Board distributed the Report 6 forms and instructions in early July to the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) for the reporting period of January 1 through June 30, 2023. UPAs must submit Report 6 to staff no later than September 1, 2023.

For more information regarding Report 6 requirements, contact:
Char'Mane Robinson at (916) 327-1276 or Charmane.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Single-Walled UST Testing and Repairs

Single-walled UST systems that are out of compliance must return to compliance by completing all required repairs, upgrades, and testing. UPAs cannot exempt repairs, upgrades, or testing because the owner or operator plans to apply or has applied for permanent closure. Additionally, UPAs cannot forgo enforcement on single-walled UST owners and operators who fail to repair, upgrade, or test their single-walled UST systems within the 60-day compliance timeframe specified in Health and Safety Code, division 20, chapter 6.7, section 25288(d). Initiating permanent closure activities almost always exceeds the 60 days compliance timeframe. UPAs must apply progressive enforcement for all open violations, including but not limited to penalties and red tags, until the single-walled UST system is removed.

UPAs implement and enforce the UST Program to protect the waters of the State from hazardous substance releases from USTs. Single-walled UST systems pose an increased threat to groundwater due to their construction and advanced age. With approximately 2,000 single-walled UST systems remaining, it is imperative that UPAs implement and enforce UST Program requirements to ensure these systems are permanently closed before December 31, 2025.

For more information regarding single-walled UST testing and repairs, contact:
Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Illegal Single-Walled Piping Repairs

In accordance with UST Regulations, section 2666(b)(2), buried single-walled piping connected to single-walled USTs must be upgraded to meet Article 3 construction standards if repaired or replaced. State Water Board staff are aware of instances where single-walled piping has failed a tightness test and has been repaired by the testing contractor and retested. If a single-walled pipe fails a tightness test, it cannot be repaired and may only be tested again after the pipe has been upgraded to secondarily contained pipe with continuous monitoring. UPAs should thoroughly review tightness test results for failures and illegal repairs. If single-walled piping fails during enhanced leak detection or line tightness testing, UPAs must require that the UST owner or operator to upgrade the failed pipe to meet all the requirements of Article 3 before subsequent tests are performed or the pipe is placed back into operation.

For more information regarding single-walled piping upgrade requirements, contact:
Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Request to Submit Abstracts: 26th Annual CUPA Conference

The California Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Forum is requesting abstracts for the [2024 CUPA Conference](#)¹. This annual conference provides training related to enhancing the Unified Program and improving consistency between the CUPAs and participating agencies throughout California. The California CUPA Forum requests abstracts be submitted by September 9th, 2023. The State Water Board realizes that the time required to prepare and present at the conference is a substantial commitment by both CUPA management and the individual presenting. CUPAs that continue to meet their obligations in addition to providing presentations should be recognized for their outstanding achievements. Please note that speaker biographies must be submitted prior to the abstract submittal. Abstracts and biographies can be submitted at www.calcupa.org.

For additional information regarding submitting abstracts to the 26th Annual CUPA Conference abstracts, contact: Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention January – June 2022 Semiannual Report

The State Water Board has posted the [California Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention January – June 2022 Semiannual Report](#)² on the UST Leak Prevention website. This report was developed in collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Board. Report data was sourced through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) and the California GeoTracker database. A few noteworthy data points include: single-walled USTs are four times more likely to have an unauthorized release than double-walled USTs; 40% of single-walled facilities have unresolved priority violations; and the removal of single-walled systems continues to be below the target rate to have all single-walled systems closed by the December 31, 2025- deadline.

For more information regarding the annual report, contact:
Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

¹ <https://calcupa.org/conference/index.html>

² https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/docs/epa-evaluations/ca_ust_janjun2022.pdf