



Underground Storage Tank Program

February 2026 Update

Single-Walled Underground Storage Tank Statistics

On January 20, 2026, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) distributed follow-up surveys to Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) with single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) within their jurisdiction. The data collected from the follow-up survey has been updated on the [single-walled UST map](#)¹ on the State Water Board [single-walled UST webpage](#).² Approximately 600 single-walled USTs were permanently closed during the month of December. As of January 26, 2026, a preliminary review of the survey indicates California has:

- 67 single-walled facilities with 188 single-walled UST systems unresolved
 - 136 single-walled UST systems were emptied due to affixed red tag(s)
 - 52 single-walled facilities have applied for closure permits
- 13 single walled emergency tank systems remain unresolved
 - 7 single-walled emergency tank systems are government-owned
- 7 government-owned facilities with 16 single-walled UST systems remain unresolved

The Office of Enforcement, UST Enforcement Unit, will be taking over tracking single-walled USTs. The UST Leak Prevention Unit's Certified Unified Program Agency evaluation team will continue to verify that UPAs' enforcement actions against single-walled UST owners and operators are consistent with their Inspection and Enforcement Plan.

For more information regarding single-walled UST closures, contact:
Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov
For the Office of Enforcement, contact: Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov

¹ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0167aef5ced240ddb27331f6988dc8b2>

² https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/single_walled.html

Testing and Retesting UST Components

Title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (UST Regulations) provides owners and operators with additional flexibility for testing their system components. The testing hierarchy has been removed, allowing UST owners and operators to utilize the manufacturer's test methods, industry codes or engineering standards, or a method developed by a professional engineer with UPA approval.

State Water Board staff are aware of UST components that failed testing using one method and then were able to pass testing using a different method without first being repaired. Results of subsequent tests do not invalidate the initial test results. If a UST component fails any test that was properly executed, that component must be identified and repaired before retesting.

For more information regarding retesting of UST components, contact:

Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov

Mechanical Release Detection Adjustments

State Water Board staff have received questions about the new regulatory requirement where mechanical release detection cannot be repaired and must be replaced with electronic release detection equipment. Under UST Regulations, section 2611, the definition of "repair" is *to restore to proper operating condition an underground storage tank system component that had ceased to function properly, causing the underground storage tank system to be out of compliance with chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code or this chapter.*

Any adjustment to mechanical release detection equipment is considered a repair and is not permitted. Mechanical release detection equipment requiring any repair must be replaced with electronic release detection equipment. Replacement is required if the float trip devices need chain adjustments to work properly, the float device fails to lift during testing, or the shear valve does not fully stop product flow at the dispenser. Bypassing or failing to properly document any failure of this requirement is a violation and may result in civil and criminal penalties.³

For more information regarding mechanical release detection adjustments, contact:

Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov

UST Regulations Appendices (Forms)

State Water Board staff have modified the UST Regulations appendices so they are now easily fillable. The forms are available for use at the following link under an

³ Health and Safety Code, section 25299

accessibility waiver: <https://waterboards.ca.gov/ust/publications/forms.html>. The forms will be updated in the coming weeks to support screen reading and other accessibility features. The content on the forms will not change.

For more information regarding the UST Regulations Appendices, contact: Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

UST System Removal or Unauthorized Release Reporting Module on GeoTracker – FAQ

The UST Regulations require UPAs to submit all UST permanent closures and reportable unauthorized release information through the GeoTracker system using the [UST System Removal or Unauthorized Release Reporting](#)⁴ module. For additional guidance, the State Water Board has developed an [FAQ](#).⁵

Please note that the current Geotracker module allows UPAs to partially upload the required closure documents. The new UST regulations require the Cleanup Oversight Agency to respond to the UST owner within 30 days of the initial upload. The response timeline cannot be met unless all required documents are submitted with the initial upload. Geotracker is being modified to prevent partial uploads in the future. When uploading to Geotracker, please submit all required documents at one time.

For questions regarding this new reporting module, please contact: GeoTracker Help Desk at geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov

⁴ https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ust_tank_tool

⁵ https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/library/8986576676/FAQ_Final.pdf