
State Water Resources Control Board

January 22, 2025

REQUIREMENT FOR PERMANENT CLOSURE OF SINGLE-WALLED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025

To: Unified Program Agency Managers and UST Inspectors

All single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) and non-exempt single-walled piping¹ must be permanently closed by December 31, 2025. There are no exceptions, exemptions, or extensions to this requirement. UST owners or operators must permanently close their single-walled USTs by removal of the UST,² or if approved by the Unified Program Agency (UPA), closure-in-place.³ Single-walled UST systems that are not permanently closed by December 31, 2025 will be out of compliance and cannot be operated.

In accordance with Health and Safety Code section 25404.1, UPAs are required to enforce the December 31, 2025 single-walled UST deadline. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) expects UPAs to proceed with enforcement actions against all owners and operators with single-walled USTs and non-exempt single-walled piping on January 1, 2026. Enforcement actions include affixing red tags and pursuing penalties of \$500 to \$5,000 per tank, per day of violation pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) of the Health and Safety Code section 25299. The State Water Board also expects UPAs to proceed with enforcement actions against all owners and operators of noncompliant government owned USTs, including those owned and operated by their local government agencies.

In the case of noncompliant emergency tank systems or in certain other situations where an UPA may determine that affixing a red tag may not be an appropriate or effective enforcement option, UPAs should consider applying the maximum penalty amount of \$5,000 per tank, per day of violation, to achieve the deterrent effect that would be commensurate with affixing a red tag. To encourage compliance with the December 31, 2025 permanent closure deadline, UPAs should consider notifying the owners of these systems immediately of the UPA's intent to pursue the maximum penalty.

¹ See Health and Safety Code, section 25292.05.

² See California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (UST Regulations), section 2672(b). Please note the UST Regulations are expected to be amended effective January 1, 2026, which may change the citations used herein.

³ See UST Regulations, section 2672(c).

If UPAs need assistance with emergency tank systems, government owned UST facilities, or other enforcement matters, please reach out to the State Water Board Office of Enforcement. UPAs also may refer enforcement matters to their city attorney, county counsel, or district attorney for pursuit of the civil penalties described above.

For questions on the single-walled UST closure requirements, please contact me at Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Henderson
Manager, UST Leak Prevention Unit and
Office of Tank Tester Licensing
State Water Resources Control Board

cc: [Via email only]

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