



# Fact Sheet

## Well Destruction and Waste Removal Requirements Prior to Underground Storage Tank Case Closure

Background: Proper destruction of wells helps to protect groundwater from potential threats and is a critical component of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) case closure process. The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank (UST) Case Closure Policy (Policy) mandates that monitoring wells be properly destroyed prior to UST case closure, unless they will be kept and maintained in accordance with applicable local and state requirements. The Policy also mandates that all investigation and remediation-derived waste materials be removed prior to case closure. As of May 15, 2015, there were a total of 836 “Open-Eligible for Closure” cases throughout California, for which remaining wells and wastes served as impediments to closure.

### Information for Responsible Parties and

Site Owners: If you received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Regional Water Quality Control Board, or a local agency directing well destruction and waste removal, you must take action before your UST case can be closed. A uniform closure letter (UCL) will not be issued for your case until the wastes are removed and the wells are either destroyed or approved for continued maintenance by the regulatory agency overseeing your UST case. Your local well permitting agency may require ongoing monitoring of wells even though the regulatory agency is not requiring it, so additional costs may be incurred. A list of open cases with directives to destroy wells and remove wastes can be viewed on the public GeoTracker webpage at: [http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ptcp\\_destruction\\_report.asp](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ptcp_destruction_report.asp).

**Note:** The State Water Board has the authority to administratively impose civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per UST on responsible parties and site owners that fail to comply with the requirements of UST case closure order. **Do not let penalties be imposed on you!**

The contractor that helped you with corrective actions at your site can provide more information about the well destruction and waste removal process. If you do not currently have a contractor, you can contact the regulatory agency that is responsible for oversight of your UST case and ask if they have a list of contractors in the area. Your regulatory agency can also let you know if your contractor is required to submit a work plan for approval before well destruction and waste removal begins. Once the work is complete, submit confirmation documentation to the regulatory agency overseeing your UST case. After the well and waste

**Important:** Check the current standing of any contractor with the California Contractors State License Board. You can do this at the following location on the web: <https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicense.aspx>



removal has been completed, approved by your regulatory agency, and communicated to the State Water Board, a UCL will be issued and uploaded to GeoTracker.

If you have an eligible claim with the UST Cleanup Fund, the cost of well destruction is considered corrective action and reasonable and necessary costs are typically reimbursable. Monitoring of wells after you have been informed that the wells should be destroyed is not normally considered to be corrective action and may not be eligible for reimbursement. Additional information can be obtained on the State Water Board UST Cleanup Fund (Fund) website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ustcf/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/). You may also contact the Fund staff by email: [ustcleanupfund@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ustcleanupfund@waterboards.ca.gov), message phone line: 1-800-813-Fund (3863), or fax: 916-341-5806.

Information for Consultants/Contractors/Drillers: A list of open cases with directives to destroy wells can be viewed on the public GeoTracker webpage at: [http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ptcp\\_destruction\\_report.asp](http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ptcp_destruction_report.asp). Seek approval with regulatory agencies having jurisdiction before performing any well destruction work. Encroachment permits and/or access agreements may also be necessary. A list of local well-permitting agencies can be found at: <http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/wells/permitting.cfm>

Reference: *Plan for Implementation of Low-Threat UST Case Closure Policy and Additional Program Improvements*  
([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/110612\\_6\\_final\\_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/110612_6_final_ltcp%20imp%20plan.pdf)).

*(This fact sheet was last updated May 21, 2015.)*