



# Underground Storage Tank Program

## July 2026 Update

### New Requirements for Facilities Not Routinely Staffed

Many Underground Storage Tank (UST) facilities are not staffed during all operating hours (e.g., card lock or fleet motor vehicle fueling facilities). Effective July 1, 2026, California Code of Regulations, title 23, chapter 16 (Title 23), section 2652(a)(1)(C) requires that — except for emergency tank systems — pressurized piping connected to a UST at such a facility be monitored by continuous interstitial release detection equipment programmed for shut off of the pump when it detects a release from the piping or the release detection system malfunctions (fail safe).

A facility is routinely staffed if there is at least one facility employee on site to respond to release detection alarms and releases during all operating hours with current site-specific training from the facility's designated UST operator as required by Title 23, section 2631. Regardless of a facility's business hours, "operating hours" means any time hazardous substance is transferred into or out of a UST (e.g., filling the tank, dispensing, or otherwise circulating liquid hazardous substance through the connected piping).

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff have received questions regarding whether remote monitoring satisfies the routinely staffed requirement. Remote monitoring does not satisfy this requirement. Remote monitoring may be used by facilities that are routinely staffed, as well as by facilities that are not routinely staffed. The on-site presence of one or more trained facility employees, not the use of remote monitoring, determines the need for configuring monitoring of pressurized piping per Title 23, section 2652(a)(1)(C). Therefore, on and after July 1, 2026, stand-alone sensors cannot be used at facilities that are not routinely staffed since they stop flow at the dispenser by engaging the shear valve or cutting power to the dispenser, but do not shut down the pressure pump as required.

When performing an inspection, Unified Program Agency (UPA) inspectors must verify that pressurized piping at facilities that are not routinely staffed is equipped with release detection equipment that is fail safe and provides positive shut-off. If a facility is not in compliance with section 2652(a)(1)(C), the UPA inspector should, at a minimum, cite UST Program Violation 2031004 and apply appropriate progressive enforcement until the owner or operator returns to compliance.

For additional information on unstaffed facilities, contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov).

## UST Certification of Installation/Modification in CERS

State Water Board staff have recently received several questions regarding the “UST Certification of Installation/Modification” submittal element in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). Specifically, what should the UPA require from the UST owner or operator submittal. Owners or operators must submit the “UST Certification of Installation/Modification” within 30 days of the installation inspection.<sup>1</sup>

The “UST Certification of Installation/Modification” is required for any installation performed on a UST or piping. This includes the tank, primary and secondary piping, and secondary containment components (e.g., sumps, under-dispenser containment). If the component being installed does not meet the definition of “underground storage tank” in H&SC, section 25281(y)(1), the submittal is not required.

The definition of “piping” differs between Type 1 and Type 2/Type 3 USTs. For example, replacement of vent or vapor recovery piping for a Type 1 UST may not require the “UST Certification of Installation/Modification” if it meets the piping exclusion in H&SC, section 25281.5(b)(1). Before requiring the owner or operator to submit the “UST Certification of Installation/Modification,” the UPA must consider whether the component(s) being installed meets the UST definition in H&SC, section 25281(y)(1).

For additional information regarding the UST Certification of Installation/Modification submittal element in CERS, contact Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or [Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov).

## Report 6 Due September 1, 2026

The State Water Board recently distributed the Report 6 forms and instructions to all UPAs for the reporting period of January 1 through June 30, 2026. UPAs must submit the completed Report 6 no later than September 1, 2026.

If inaccurate Report 6 data is submitted, it will be returned to the UPA for correction. Corrected Report 6 submissions must also be received by the September 1, 2026, deadline to avoid being late.

Beginning with this reporting period, Temporary Closures must be reported whenever a UST is identified as being in Temporary Closure at any time during the reporting window. This supersedes the prior requirement to report only those determined to be in Temporary Closure at the close of the reporting period.

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<sup>1</sup> See Title 23, section 2642(g)

For more information regarding Report 6 requirements, contact Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or [Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov).

## **CERS FAQ Website**

The State Water Board staff have begun updating the [CERS Business User FAQs Website](#)<sup>2</sup> to align with the amended Title 23. The following FAQs have been updated along with their associated citations:

### *Should a permanently closed UST be included in future submittals?*

Permanent UST closure requirements, including timelines, have been added.

### *Are hard copies of UST documents required to be kept on site?*

The hard copy requirements have been updated, and the turn-around time for hard copy requests has been added.

For more information regarding CERS FAQs, please contact Stephanie Duong at (916) 322-8544 or [Stephanie.Duong@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Duong@waterboards.ca.gov).

## **Permanent Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tanks with Single-Walled Components Webpage**

The State Water Board has modified the [Single-Walled UST Webpage](#)<sup>3</sup> to align with the amended Title 23. All future single-walled UST updates will be addressed on the new Office of Enforcement website, [Permanent Closure Requirements for Single-Walled USTs](#).<sup>4</sup>

For more information regarding single-walled UST closure and/or enforcement, please contact Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or [Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov).

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/cers/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/cers/)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/single\\_walled.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/single_walled.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/enforcement/swust.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/enforcement/swust.html)