



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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## State Water Resources Control Board

July 7, 2015

Dear Underground Storage Tank Owner and/or Operator,

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is notifying all owners and operators of regulated facilities with single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) and/or single-walled piping of a new law that will significantly impact these facilities. You have been identified by your Unified Program Agency (UPA) as the owner or operator of a regulated facility with single-walled USTs and/or single-walled piping.

Single-walled UST components pose an increased threat to water quality because when they leak, the hazardous substance stored is released directly into the environment contaminating soil and possibly groundwater. Senate Bill 445 (Stats. 2014, Ch. 547) authored by Assembly Member Hill became effective on September 25, 2014. This law, reflected in Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7, section 25292.05, requires the permanent closure of all single-walled USTs by December 31, 2025. You can view the State Water Board notification that was issued on September 26, 2014 regarding this requirement at the website below.

[http://waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/docs/sb445\\_notification\\_1f\\_9\\_26.pdf](http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/docs/sb445_notification_1f_9_26.pdf)

In order to stay in compliance with the law, you must replace or remove any single-walled USTs and/or single-walled piping that you own or operate by December 31, 2025. Single-walled USTs must be permanently closed in accordance with chapter 6.7, section 25298 of the Health and Safety Code and title 23, section 2672 of the California Code of Regulations. Pursuant to section 25299 of the Health and Safety Code, failing to meet the permanent closure deadline may result in fines of \$500 to \$5000 per UST for each day of violation beginning January 1, 2026.

Grants and loans are available through the Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks (RUST) program to assist eligible small business UST owners or operators to permanently close single-walled USTs and to replace them with double-walled USTs. During the permanent closure process, if it is determined that a release has occurred, owners/operators may need to undertake corrective actions (i.e., investigate and clean up the release). Filing a claim application with the UST Cleanup Fund, completing corrective action, and receiving reimbursement for eligible corrective action costs is a lengthy process. Please note that the deadline for submittal of a claim application to the UST Cleanup Fund for reimbursement of eligible costs for corrective action is December 31, 2024 and the UST Cleanup Fund is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2026. Therefore, the State Water Board recommends owners or operators to start the closure process sooner rather than later. You can find more information about these funding sources at the websites below.

RUST Program: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ustcf/rust.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/rust.shtml)  
UST Cleanup Fund: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ustcf/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/)

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Though this may not be an easy process for some, it is a necessary step to better protect California's groundwater and ensure public health and safety. Moving forward, the State Water Board UST Program is committed to providing relevant information and outreach to those who are affected by these program changes. To learn more about the UST Program and stay up to date with relevant information regarding the program, visit the State Water Board website below.

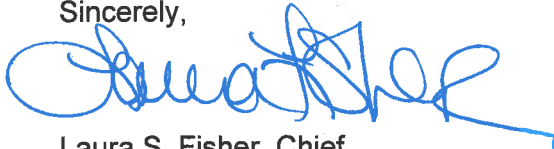
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/)

If you have questions or concerns regarding your UST facility, please contact your UPA. If you have already complied with the single-walled UST closure requirements prior to receiving this letter, please contact your UPA to ensure that this is reflected in their records. To find your UPA, visit the link below and enter your UST facility address.

<http://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/public/directory/>

Thank you so much for your cooperation as we make this transition to better protect the environment and public health in California.

Sincerely,



Laura S. Fisher, Chief  
UST Leak Prevention Unit and  
Office of Tank Tester Licensing