



State Water Resources Control Board

December 28, 2023

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

UST Owners and Operators:

Single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) must be permanently closed by December 31, 2025. This requirement includes both single-walled tanks and non-exempt single-walled piping per California Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7, section 25292.05. Permanent closure of a single-walled UST system shall consist of either: removal of the UST in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (UST Regulations), section 2672(b), or if approved by the Unified Program Agency (UPA), closure-in-place in accordance with UST Regulations, section 2672(c). Soil samples must be collected and analyzed in accordance with UST Regulations, section 2672(d). Owners and operators cannot avoid enforcement by simply emptying USTs of their contents prior to the deadline. There are no exemptions, variances, or extensions to the single-walled UST closure deadline.

Single-walled UST systems that are not permanently closed by December 31, 2025 will be out of compliance and cannot be operated. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has strongly encouraged the UPAs to proceed with enforcement actions, to include affixing red tags and pursuing civil penalties, against owners and operators of any remaining single-walled UST systems beginning January 1, 2026. USTs with a red tag affixed must be emptied of all remaining contents within 48 hours and cannot accept fuel deliveries nor dispense any remaining fuel. Single-walled UST owners and operators will also be subject to civil penalties of \$500 to \$5,000 per day, per tank, per violation for failure to permanently close by December 31, 2025.

Licensed UST contractors are currently scheduling through 2025. Additionally, lead times for UST replacement equipment can take up to one year or more once ordered, and prices continue to increase with demand. Failing to secure a contractor or replacement equipment ahead of the closure deadline will not relieve a single-walled UST owner and operator from civil penalties. Please reach out to your UPA for closure guidance and local permitting requirements. Additional details on the single-walled UST closure deadline are found at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/single_walled.html.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For questions regarding the single-walled UST permanent closure deadline, contact Jenna Hartman from the UST Leak Prevention Unit at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: [Via email only]

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