

Unified Program Newsletter – October 2025

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CalEPA

2026 CUPA Evaluations

The 2026 CUPA Performance Evaluation pre-notification letters have been sent to the respective CUPAs, and the schedule is as follows:

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) 2026 Evaluation Schedule

CUPA	Evaluation Begins
City of Hayward Fire Department	January
Roseville City Fire Department	February
Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health	February
Orange County Environmental Health	March
City of El Segundo Fire Department Environmental Safety	April

CUPA	Evaluation Begins
Colusa County Environmental Health	April
Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Environmental Compliance Division	May
Solano County Environmental Health	May
Merced County Community & Economic Development Department Division of Environmental Health	June
Fremont City Fire Department	June
Gilroy City Fire Department	June
Santa Clara County Environmental Health	July
Lassen County Environmental Health	July
County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services	August
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department Division of Environmental Health - CUPA	August
City of Anaheim Fire Department	September
County of Los Angeles Fire Department	October
Lake County Environmental Health	October
City of Union City Environmental Programs Division	November
El Dorado County Environmental Management Department	December

The CalEPA website will be updated soon to reflect the 2026 CUPA Performance Evaluation schedule.

Future CERS NextGen Townhalls

Please join the project team for public townhalls to discuss the project and ask questions.

October CERS NextGen Townhall

Thursday October 30th 10 am -12pm

Sign up at: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f30df484-bded-47ca-b623-ad5a235e0037@fedfd738-1216-4730-a902-fd41fa7f4dbc>

November CERS NextGen Townhall

Thursday November 20th 10 am -12pm

Sign up at: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/8b23c204-1c27-45c7-815b-009f8719f1df@fedfd738-1216-4730-a902-fd41fa7f4dbc>

December CERS NextGen Townhall

Thursday December 18th 10 am -12pm

Sign up at: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/87a83726-6f0c-41bd-ba86-cbf9889a74e0@fedfd738-1216-4730-a902-fd41fa7f4dbc>

Future NextGen DSC CERS NextGen

Please join the project team (for UPA ONLY) to discuss the project and ask questions.

Please e-mail Nick Antilla for a link at Nicholas.Antilla@calepa.ca.gov.

November CERS NextGen DSC

Thursday November 13th 10 am -12pm

You're invited to DSC- ALL CUPA

Thursday, November 13, 2025

10:00 am - 12:00 pm (PST)

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2RIZWM2YmEtOWRhZS00YmJmLWI2ZmYtYzEwOGMzZWYwZTFm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fedfd738-1216-4730-a902-fd41fa7f4dbc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220f719b86-ca2d-4a53-9056-9450f2f9acaf%22%7d

Tap on the link or paste it in a browser to join.

Please join CalEPA for an All-CUPA CERS NextGen Townhall on November 13th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. In the townhall, the project team plans to provide updates on Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) end points, the latest status of Phase 1 progress, and the plan of Phase 2 of the project. CUPAs will be able to ask questions with project team members present.

December CERS NextGen DSC

Thursday December 11th 10 am -12pm

CalARP/HMBP

Guidance for Development of a Dispute Resolution Procedure

CalEPA has published "[Guidance for Unified Program Agencies for the Development of a Dispute Resolution Procedure for the California Accidental Release Prevention Program](#)." This document is intended to provide guidance to UPAs regarding the dispute resolution procedures that are required to be developed and maintained. This document is intended for use as a reference guide for applicable regulations and is not a rule or regulation and does not replace or supersede applicable statutes or regulations. This document serves to outline circumstances and conditions for UPAs to consider while developing or updating their dispute resolutions process. There is also a provided template that may be utilized by UPAs in developing a dispute resolution procedure, which should be customized to reflect the unique circumstances of each UPA.

(<https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Guidance-for-Unified-Program-Agencies-for-the-Development-of-a-Dispute-Resolution-Procedure.pdf>)

For questions regarding this, please contact Elizabeth Brega at

Elizabeth.Brega@calepa.ca.gov.

State Water Board

Single-Walled UST Follow-Up Survey

On August 29, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) distributed follow-up surveys to Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) with single-walled

underground storage tanks (USTs) in their jurisdiction. The data collected from the follow-up survey has been updated on the [single-walled UST map](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0167aef5ced240ddb27331f6988dc8b2) (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0167aef5ced240ddb27331f6988dc8b2>) on the [State Water Board single-walled UST webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/single_walled.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/single_walled.html). Additionally, the State Water Board began distributing red tag supplies to the UPAs on September 23, 2025, based on the results of the survey.

An overview of the survey results is provided below:

- 393 facilities with 1,083 single-walled components
 - 258 facilities with 691 single-walled tanks only
 - 32 facilities are government owned
 - 45 facilities with 118 double-walled tanks and single-walled piping only
 - 6 facilities are government owned
 - 90 facilities with 274 single-walled tanks and piping
 - 7 facilities are government owned
- 31 facilities with 39 emergency tank systems
 - 12 facilities are government owned
- 42 facilities are within 1,000 feet of a public drinking water well
- 171 (44%) facilities have not submitted a UST closure permit application

For questions regarding single-walled USTs surveys or red tag supplies, contact: Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Enforcement Data in CERS

As the single-walled UST closure deadline approaches, the State Water Board reminds UPAs that all red tag and enforcement information must be entered into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). UPAs requiring assistance with entering red tag information in CERS should refer to the [CERS FAQ, How to Enter Red Tag Information](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/ru01_red_tag.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/ru01_red_tag.html). Finally, UPAs should report the total number of red tags issued, not the number of facilities with red tags.

For information regarding red tags and enforcement information in CERS, contact: Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov.

Chapter 16 Rewrite Update

On September 3, 2025, the State Water Board adopted the proposed amendments to the UST Regulations. The proposed UST Regulations will become effective on January 1, 2026. A copy of the [proposed UST Regulations](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/chapter16/docs/draft-regulations-2026-ust-regulations-for-distribution-no-forms.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/chapter16/docs/draft-regulations-2026-ust-regulations-for-distribution-no-forms.pdf) is available on the [Chapter 16 webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/chapter16/rewrite.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/chapter16/rewrite.html) for reference.

For additional information regarding the Chapter 16 rewrite, contact:
Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Chapter 16 Informational Webinars

State Water Board staff will host a series of webinars to provide an overview of the amended UST regulations and respond to questions from attendees. Each session will deliver the same presentation, and UPAs are encouraged to attend the session that best aligns with their availability.

The webinars will be held via Zoom on the following dates and times:

- October 14 from 1:00pm-3:00pm
Join the Meeting at: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/84003663799>
- October 16 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Join the Meeting at: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/82141118960>
- October 21 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Join the Meeting at: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/89923433911>
- November 4 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Join the Meeting at: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/83327571564>
- November 6 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Join the Meeting at: <https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/86836241436>

For additional information regarding the Chapter 16 Informational Webinars, contact:
Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Jumper Connection Tubes

During oversight inspections, the evaluation staff continue to observe jumpers connected to the interstitial spaces of double-walled flex piping. These connections are utilized during secondary containment testing but must be disconnected once testing is complete to ensure that any leaks are detected at the earliest possible opportunity. If a UPA inspector observes jumpers connected during the annual monitoring certification, a violation must be issued. Evaluation staff will verify that all applicable violations have been issued. For reference, a photo of jumper connections is provided below.



For additional information regarding jumper connection tubes, contact: Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov.

Report 6 Discrepancies

During the January through June 2025 Report 6 period, the State Water Board identified a significant increase in discrepancies between data reported to CERS and information submitted by the UPAs. Out of 89 UPAs, 40 (45%) required data corrections to facility counts, active petroleum and hazardous substance UST counts, and reported red tags.

Report 6 data is part of a larger deferral reporting requirement to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, where significant corrections in data are closely scrutinized. For paperless Report 6 reporters, submission of Report 6 certifies that the data in CERS has been verified as accurate and complete. UPAs must clearly identify all data discrepancies on the Report 6 form.

For additional information regarding Report 6 or to request Report 6 training, contact: Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov.

For CERS data training, contact Katlin Cottrell at (916) 319-0742 or Kaitlin.Cottrell@waterboards.ca.gov.

UST Enforcement Unit Supervisor

Jenna Hartman will be leaving the UST Leak Prevention Unit after nearly four years. She has accepted the supervisor position with the State Water Board, Office of Enforcement, UST Enforcement Unit. Jenna has been an excellent team member and will be missed. We are very proud of Jenna and excited to see her excel in her new role.

DTSC

Tiny Topic Training Update – Reaching Inspectors Across California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) continues to expand its outreach through Tiny Topic Training sessions delivered at Northern California Technical Assistance Group (TAG), Southern California TAG, and Central Region CUPA Forum Board (CFB) meetings.

Currently, DTSC is exploring additional ways to extend Tiny Topic Training access to a broader audience, including industry partners and new CUPA staff.

Please contact us if you have a good suggestion or venue ideas to DTSC_CUPATrainers@dtsc.ca.gov.

In-Person Environmental Sampling for Enforcement Training Sections Update

DTSC is proud to announce the continued success of our In-Person Environmental Sampling for Enforcement Training, designed to strengthen field capabilities and promote consistency in environmental sampling procedures across California.

This hands-on training was delivered across the state in the past year. DTSC would continue to make the effort to offer this popular training annually.

Upcoming Training Schedule:

- **Fresno** – November 19, 2025 - Now accepting registrations (**Only six (6) seats left**). The registration form is located at the following link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9P+PP2DhKky6uMY-9L0kOUOI8FqzDJKtQuXPjc_pyNUREFNTE84Vk1NWkZZUFk3RkU1Uk1W0EFFFsi4u

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Woodward Park Regional Library
944 E. Perrin Avenue
Fresno, California 93720

Training Details:

The training will focus on preparation and sampling techniques for environmental sampling for enforcement.

- Students will learn how to prepare for sampling, sampling strategies, the various sampling equipment to use, the various laboratory analyses to request, how to interpret the results, and how to present those results to be able to build legally defensible cases.

- Includes hands-on training with sampling equipment to learn how to collect and document various types of samples.

We encourage early registration to secure your spot, as space is limited, and demand remains high.

Upcoming Virtual Training: Conducting Effective Hazardous Waste Generator Inspections

DTSC is pleased to announce an upcoming virtual training developed in collaboration with the Stanislaus Department of Environmental Resources:

Training Details:

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

Registration Link:

<https://dtsc-ca-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/R1XoHrxtRtq80u8YgdJEEw>

This training will provide inspectors and regulatory staff with the knowledge and tools to:

- Navigate and research regulatory databases (CERS, EnviroStor, HWTS, RCRAInfo, ECHO).
- Conduct thorough pre-inspection preparation.
- Perform effective field inspections.
- Identify the most common hazardous waste violations.
- Apply interviewing, photography, note-taking, and evidence collection techniques to support defensible enforcement cases.

How to register?

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dtsc-ca-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/R1XoHrxtRtq80u8YgdJEEw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For questions or additional information, please contact the CUPA Training and Assistance Unit at DTSC_CUPATrainers@dtsc.ca.gov.

DTSC's 2026 Electronic Verification Questionnaire and Late Reporting Penalties

DTSC's 2026 electronic Verification Questionnaire (eVQ) report cycle is set to begin on January 30, 2026. The Verification Questionnaire must be completed in the eVQ System and is due **by March 31** of each year. Failure to submit the eVQ by the deadline constitutes a violation. Starting with this reporting cycle, each handler will be assessed a separate violation for each ID number that does not comply with this requirement (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, §66269.32). The initial penalty will be determined based on the annual tonnage generated in the previous calendar year and the number of days the report is delinquent. If you receive questions from stakeholders regarding the questionnaire, please refer them to the following information:

eVQ System: <https://evq.dtsc.ca.gov>

eVQ Penalty Information: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/evq-penalties/>

Email: eVQ@dtsc.ca.gov

Toll-free Number: 1-877-454-4012, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Pacific Time

Hazardous Waste Tracking System and RCRAInfo System User Account Cleanup

Security best practices and standards require that user accounts be removed or disabled within a specified timeframe. Stale accounts pose a significant security risk, as they provide opportunities for bad actors to gain unauthorized access to sensitive data and resources within the system.

If you are a manager or supervisor, please email hwtsadm@dtsc.ca.gov to request a list of active HWTS and RCRAInfo regulatory user accounts from your organization. Review this list to identify any employees who are either no longer with your agency or no longer require access. This will allow DTSC to deactivate those user accounts.

Cal FIRE OSFM

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Advisory Committee

The next APSA Advisory Committee meeting will be held on October 15, 2025. The agenda is available on website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/committees/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act-apsa-advisory-committee>.

APSA Webinars

Another APSA webinar is coming soon. This next series will be held on November 4 and 5, 2025.

Use the link below to join the webinar on November 4 at 10:00-11:00 AM:

[Join the November 4 webinar via Microsoft Teams](#)

([https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTdlMzg5ZmYtNzA4Zi00YmY1LWJiYmUtYWQzYmM2ZDk2MDZl%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22447a4ca0-5405-454d-ad68-c98a520261f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2255dd5151-2626-4f47-82ff-87b7f7bc788f%22%7d)

[join/19%3ameeting_NTdlMzg5ZmYtNzA4Zi00YmY1LWJiYmUtYWQzYmM2ZDk2MDZl%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22447a4ca0-5405-454d-ad68-c98a520261f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2255dd5151-2626-4f47-82ff-87b7f7bc788f%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTdlMzg5ZmYtNzA4Zi00YmY1LWJiYmUtYWQzYmM2ZDk2MDZl%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22447a4ca0-5405-454d-ad68-c98a520261f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2255dd5151-2626-4f47-82ff-87b7f7bc788f%22%7d))

Meeting ID: 286 688 037 626
Passcode: uc34xP
Dial in by phone: +1 (650) 564-3271
Phone conference ID: 296 876 322#

Use the link below to join the webinar on November 5 at 2:00-3:00 PM:

[Join the November 5 webinar via Microsoft Teams](#)

(https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGI5MTk2ODQtNzU3Mi00ZTE4LTkyYWQzMGEyYmU3MDFjZTg3%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22447a4ca0-5405-454d-ad68-c98a520261f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2255dd5151-2626-4f47-82ff-87b7f7bc788f%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 236 463 452 316 1
Passcode: x4ty9BG3
Dian in by phone: +1 (650) 564-3271
Phone conference ID: 152 943 76#

If unable to attend the APSA webinar on November 4 or 5, you may request a copy of the presentation by sending an email to cupa@fire.ca.gov.

References or links to information cited in this newsletter are subject to change. CalEPA is interested in your comments and suggestions regarding the Unified Program monthly newsletter. Please email your comments and suggestions to: cupa@calepa.ca.gov.

[CalEPA Unified Program Home Page](#)