

Unified Program Newsletter – February 2026

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CalEPA

CERS NextGen and UPAS

In preparation for NextGen there are two items a UPA can start now to have an easier user transition.

Local Facility Grouping

Regulators can set this optional field to locally-relevant values that would group their facilities as necessary for local purposes. A possible implementation might include assigning some type of "district" identifier to group facilities for inspection purposes, or some kind of text indicating on what schedule groups of facilities should report their Business Plan submittal element(s). The text cannot exceed 20 characters and is searchable on the Facility Search page. CUPA lead regulators can choose to add/edit values to this field from a facility's summary page or using a bulk upload tool (excel upload) from the Tools menu.

The screenshot shows the 'Facility Search' page of the CERS Regulator. The page has a blue header with the 'CERS Regulator' logo and navigation buttons: Home, Submittals, Facilities, Businesses, Regulators, Compliance, Responders, and Reports. Below the header is a dark grey bar with 'Facility Search' and a breadcrumb link 'Home >> Facility Search'. The main search area is a light grey box with the title 'Search'. It contains several search criteria: CERS ID, Facility Name (with a 'Starts with' dropdown), Facility ID/Key, Facility Street Address (with a 'Starts with' dropdown), EPA ID Number, Last Submittal Date Range (with a date range selector), County (a dropdown menu), Regulator (a dropdown menu), Submittal Element (a dropdown menu), Reporting Requirement (a dropdown menu), City, and ZIP Code. There are also checkboxes for 'Limit To Remote Facilities' and 'Limit To Small Quantity Generators'. A red circle highlights the 'Local Facility Grouping' dropdown menu, which is currently empty. A 'Search' button is located at the bottom right of the search area.

The screenshot shows the 'Tools' page of the CERS Regulator. The page has a blue header with the 'CERS Regulator' logo and navigation buttons: Home, Submittals, Facilities, Businesses, Regulators, Compliance, Responders, and Reports. Below the header is a dark grey bar with 'Tools' and a breadcrumb link 'Home >> CERS Tools'. Below this is a 'Instructions/Help' section with a question mark icon and a link to 'Instructions/Help'. The main content area is a light grey box with the title 'Tools'. It contains several links and descriptions: 'CERS User Accounts' (A searchable listing of all CERS user accounts.), 'CERS Inactive User Accounts' (List of all CERS Inactive user accounts.), 'CERS Chemical Library' (View, search, and download the chemical/material information available in the CERS Chemical Library.), 'CERS Violation Library' (View, search, and download the violation information available in the CERS Violation Library.), 'Your Browser Software' (CERS not quite looking good? Get information on and identify your browser before communicating with CERS Technical Support.), 'Statewide Default ZIP Code--Submittal Element--Regulator Mappings' (View, search, and download the default mappings used to associate a new facility to its regulators via the facility's ZIP Code. Authorized regulators can change a facility's default regulator assignments by searching for a facility and selecting the "Change CUPA" left menu link.), 'Download CERS User Accounts for an UPA's Businesses' (Use this tool to download a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with name, email address, and business name information for CERS User Accounts associated with the selected UPA's businesses.), 'Find Duplicate Facilities' (View a list of facilities that are possibly duplicate whether from seeding or from some other means.), 'CERS Notification Types' (View a listing of system events CERS logs. These events are displayed as notifications in the CERS web site (i.e., "Action Required" or "Notifications" items), and in some cases also result in one or more auto-generated emails being sent to appropriate business and/or regulator users.), 'UPA EDT Service Service Tiers and Endpoints' (View a summary of the tiers of electronic data transfer (EDT) services available to use by UPAs.), 'CERS2 Business Rules' (This technical document summarizes key electronic reporting business rules implemented in the CERS2 web portals and EDT processes.), and 'Upload Facility Metadata (Remote/SQG Facilities, Local Facility Groupings)' (CUPAs can use this tool to upload a spreadsheet indicating values for the following facility metadata fields: Remote Facility Indicator, Small Quantity Generator Facility Indicator, and Local Facility Grouping field.). A red circle highlights the 'Upload Facility Metadata (Remote/SQG Facilities, Local Facility Groupings)' link.

Due Dates

Due dates for submittal elements will be mandatory in CERS NextGen to facilitate better communication between stakeholders. Existing due dates from the legacy system will be migrated. Sites without due dates will default to the state due dates per applicable program. A UPA will be able to update their due dates per program or modify individual facilities.

Due Dates exist in CERS 3 and can be modified in the Reporting Requirements.

[Summary](#)
[Submittals](#)
[Reporting Requirements](#)
[Compliance](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Manage Facility](#)
[Change UPA](#)
[Location Map](#)

Instructions/Help

- If no draft/submitted submittals exist for the facility, the default **Reporting Requirement** status is *Not Applicable*. Once a draft Business Activities form is completed, some/all submittal elements' Reporting Requirement statuses will be automatically set to *Applicable* based upon the questions they answer yes to.
- To ensure a facility's reports ALWAYS include a specific submittal element (e.g., a refinery always completes an APSA element), regulators can edit/set a submittal element's Reporting Requirement status as *Always Applicable*.
- Regulators can indicate a facility is not regulated under any program (e.g., a closed business) by setting all Reporting Requirement statuses to *Not Applicable*.
- In the CERS Business Portal, Businesses can indicate a submittal element included in past submittals is no longer applicable to their facility by selecting the submittal element's "Not Applicable" button on their *Prepare Draft Submittal* page. Regulators will receive a courtesy email alerting them to the business' action.
- **Next Due Date** is an optional field regulators can manually complete per submittal element to warn a business when the submittal element is next due.

Facility Reporting Requirements by Submittal Element

Change

Submittal Element	Regulator	Reporting Requirement	Next Due Date
Facility Information	Fremont City Fire Department	Applicable	
Hazardous Materials Inventory	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Emergency Response and Training Plans	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Underground Storage Tanks	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Tiered Permitting	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Recyclable Materials Report	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Remote Waste Consolidation Site Annual Notification	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Hazardous Waste Tank Closure Certification	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
California Accidental Release Program	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	

[Change CUPA/PA's for this Facility](#)

Facility Reporting Requirements by Submittal Element

Reporting Requirement Due Date

Apply To All

Save Changes Cancel

Submittal Element	Regulator	Reporting Requirement	Next Due Date
Facility Information	Fremont City Fire Department	Applicable	
Hazardous Materials Inventory	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Emergency Response and Training Plans	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Underground Storage Tanks	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Tiered Permitting	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Recyclable Materials Report	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Remote Waste Consolidation Site Annual Notification	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Hazardous Waste Tank Closure Certification	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	
California Accidental Release Program	Fremont City Fire Department	Not Applicable	

Save Changes Cancel

State Water Board

UST System Removal or Unauthorized Release Reporting Module on GeoTracker– FAQ

UST Regulations now require all UPAs to submit all permanent UST closures and reportable unauthorized release information through the GeoTracker system, using the UST System Removal or Unauthorized Release Reporting (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ust_tank_tool) module. To provide additional guidance, the State Water Board has developed a FAQ (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/regulators/library/8986576676/FAQ_Final.pdf).

For questions regarding this new reporting module, please contact: GeoTracker Help Desk at geotracker@waterboards.ca.gov

DTSC

2025 National Biennial Hazardous Waste Report Cycle Open!

The 2025 National Biennial Hazardous Waste Report (Biennial Report, or BR) cycle opened on January 2, 2026, and is due March 1, 2026. The BR is completed through U.S. EPA's [RCRAInfo](#) System. Sites are required to file the 2025 BR if in any one month during 2025, they met any of the following conditions:

- Generated more than 2,200 pounds of RCRA non-acute hazardous waste OR
- Generated or accumulated more than 2.2 pounds of RCRA acute hazardous waste OR
- Generated or accumulated greater than 220 pounds of spill cleanup materials contaminated with RCRA acute hazardous waste OR
- Treated, stored, or disposed of RCRA hazardous waste on-site.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control has sent emails to sites whose records show have met the reporting requirements to inform them to file. If you receive any questions regarding the Biennial Report, refer them to the resources below.

Website (includes training video and guide): <https://dtsc.ca.gov/biennial-reports-information/>

Email: brsstaff@dtsc.ca.gov

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

DTSC's 2026 Electronic Verification Questionnaire Reporting Cycle Opens

DTSC has opened web access for the 2026 electronic Verification Questionnaire (eVQ) reporting cycle as of January 30, 2026. All initial notices to ID number holders required to complete the eVQ have been sent. The deadline to submit the eVQ is March 31, 2026. Reporting after the March 31st deadline is a violation, and handlers will be subject to late reporting penalties. A handler shall be assessed a separate violation for each

hazardous waste ID number that does not comply with this requirement (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, Section 66269.32).

If you receive any questions from your stakeholders regarding the questionnaire, please refer them to the information below.

Website: <https://evq.dtsc.ca.gov>

Training Video: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/evq-training-video/>

Email: eVQ@dtsc.ca.gov

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

Join DTSC at the 2026 CUPA Conference!

DTSC is proud to present 29 informative sessions and workshops at the CUPA Conference in San Diego this March. Our experts will cover key topics in hazardous waste, enforcement, industry practices, leadership, cleanup, emergency response, and more.

Don't miss these highlights:

- Hot topics in waste classification and recycling
 - Interpreting lab results with case studies
 - Introduction to Land Disposal Restrictions
 - Incinerable Waste Source Reduction & Recycling
 - Waste Code Modifications for Soil and Other Inorganic Solid Wastes
 - DTSC Emergency Response Assistance
 - Site Mitigation & Restoration Program Brownfield Updates for 2026
- ...and many more!

Stop by our Regulatory Affairs booth to ask questions, network, or just say hello!

There Ought to be a Law

DTSC will host "There Ought to Be a Law" at the 2026 Annual Training Conference on Thursday from 1-3pm. This session is intended to facilitate discussion of operational challenges encountered by CUPAs in implementing existing hazardous waste requirements, particularly where current statutes, regulations, or guidance may be unclear, difficult to implement, or not well aligned with real-world practices. Our goal is to clearly define the problems, understand the regulatory gaps, and generate actionable recommendations, including potential legislative or regulatory solutions.

UPDATE: We've received valuable feedback from our January survey pointing to recurring issues: battery management at HHW facilities, safety and disposal concerns for vapes, and rising program costs without adequate funding.

We welcome more responses through February! Complete the Pre-Conference Survey here: **There Ought To Be A Law:** <https://forms.office.com/g/981EtcRSUr>.

Pre-Conference Survey: There Ought To Be A Law



Cal FIRE OSFM

Completing the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Facility Information Submittal

The APSA Facility Information submittal in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) contains four data fields. Some tips are provided below, and the step-by-step instructions on how to complete this submittal are available at

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/preparing-an-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act>.

Conditionally Exempt

An owner or operator should check the box next to 'Conditionally Exempt' to indicate their tank facility is exempt from the requirement to prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan under Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 25270.4.5(b). A conditionally exempt tank facility is located **on and operated by** a farm, nursery, logging site, or construction site that has no single aboveground storage tank (AST) with a shell capacity greater than 20,000 gallons storing petroleum **and** the total petroleum storage capacity in all ASTs does not exceed 100,000 gallons. Additional information on conditionally exempt tank facilities is available under Step 2 on the website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/preparing-an-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act>.

Many farms are not regulated under APSA or Federal SPCC rule due to the Federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) thresholds: 2,500 gallons of oil (with reportable discharge history) or 6,000 gallons of oil (without reportable discharge history). Owners and operators of farms that do not meet the WRRDA thresholds should mark **NO** to the Aboveground Petroleum Storage question in the Business Activities in CERS. Such farms are not regulated under APSA and, thus, they would not need to complete any APSA submittal in CERS, etc. Additional information on farms is available at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/farms>. The farms flowchart is available at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/is-my-farm-regulated-under-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act-apsa>.

A tank facility that has checked the conditionally exempt checkbox is not required to complete the other data fields on the APSA Facility Information submittal. However, a tank facility that is not conditionally exempt from preparing an SPCC Plan under APSA is required to complete the other data fields described below.

Total Aboveground Storage Capacity of Petroleum

This field represents the tank facility's total capacity of all petroleum ASTs or containers that are 55 gallons or larger as defined in HSC Section 25270.2 and are not excluded under APSA. A tank facility's SPCC Plan and Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) contain information to complete this field.

Additional information on calculating the total aboveground petroleum storage capacity, along with examples, is available at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/is-my-facility-regulated-under-the-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act>.

Information on petroleum, including examples of petroleum products that are regulated or not regulated under APSA, is available at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/petroleum>.

If the total aboveground petroleum storage capacity of a tank facility is less than 1,320 gallons, **and** the facility has a tank in an underground area (TIUGA) with a capacity of 55 gallons or more, only the TIUGA is subject to APSA. In this case, only the TIUGA capacity is counted toward the Total Aboveground Storage Capacity of Petroleum. However, there are exceptions as described in HSC Section 25270.3(c)(3)(A)-(C). If a tank facility has less than 1,320 gallons of petroleum, the following TIUGAs are excluded from regulation under APSA and should not be included in the Total Aboveground Storage Capacity of Petroleum:

- A tank that holds hydraulic fluid for elevators, lifts, or similar devices

- A heating oil tank
- A sump, separator, clarifier, catch basin, or storm drain

Number of Tanks in Underground Areas

This field is the total number of TIUGAs at a tank facility. These are stationary (permanent or fixed) storage tanks with a shell capacity of 55 gallons or more of petroleum that are located on or above the surface of the floor in a structure at least 20 percent below the ground surface, such as a basement, cellar, shaft, pit or vault (HSC Section 25270.2(o)). An underground storage tank is not a TIUGA. If a tank facility has less than 1,320 gallons of petroleum, an owner or operator should not include the three TIUGAs excluded from APSA (as discussed in the previous data field above). If a tank facility does not have any TIUGA, then '0' (zero) should be entered. For additional information and examples on TIUGAs, visit the website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/tank-in-an-underground-area-tiuga>.

Date of SPCC Plan Certification or Date of 5-Year Review

This field is the SPCC Plan certification date or the last 5-year review date of the SPCC Plan, whichever is more recent. This field may be left blank if an SPCC Plan has not yet been prepared. Excluding conditionally exempt tank facilities, an SPCC Plan must be prepared and implemented before any new tank facility operations begin.

REMINDER: The APSA Facility Information must be completed and submitted to CERS **annually in conjunction** with the tank facility statement or HMBP submittal (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 19, Section 1614). The APSA Facility Information **is not the same as** the tank facility statement.

SP001 Aboveground Tank System Inspector Training

The next SP001 Aboveground Tank System Inspector Training in California will be held in San Jose from April 20-24, 2026. The early registration deadline for this training is March 9, 2026. For more information, visit the STI/SPFA website at <https://stispfa.org/education/trainings-courses/sp001/>.

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.

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