

PUBLIC NOTICE

***Unified Program:
Application for Recertification of the Contra Costa County as a
Certified Unified Program Agency***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Unified Program, on behalf of the Secretary for Environmental Protection (Secretary), is holding a public hearing regarding the application for recertification of the Contra Costa County (County) as a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

BACKGROUND

The County submitted an application for certification dated December 19, 1995, to CalEPA to become a CUPA. In the application for certification, the County identified the Contra Costa County Health Services Department (CCCHSD) as the agency that would be responsible for implementing the Unified Program for the County. The County was certified as a CUPA effective January 1, 1997.

On July 29, 2025, the County notified CalEPA of its request to transfer implementation of the Unified Program from CCCHSD to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD). The stated reason for the change is it “reflects the County’s effort to streamline hazardous materials management, emergency response, and regulatory oversight under a single operational structure. CCCFPD currently serves as the County’s lead agency for hazardous materials response, hazardous materials storage permitting, and prevention program enforcement within the unincorporate areas and 13 cities in the County. Consolidating CUPA functions within CCCFPD will enhance operational efficiency, consistency in inspections and enforcement, and coordination of emergency preparedness activities throughout the County.”

If approved by CalEPA, the administrative and operational changes resulting from the transfer of responsibilities would include:

- A change to the County's letterhead, logos, and public communications.
- Integration of billing and budgeting practices.
- Review and amendment of local ordinances, as needed.
- Review and amendment of the Inspection and Enforcement Plan, that is required by California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 15200, and other administrative documents.

The County Board of Supervisors, which also serves as the governing body for the CCCFPD, approved the transfer of responsibilities from CCCHSD to CCCFPD on June 24, 2025. The County Board of Supervisors' action, which was approved at a regularly scheduled meeting, authorizes CCCFPD to assume all Unified Program responsibilities pending recertification of the County as a CUPA by CalEPA. The proposed date of transfer of responsibilities is July 1, 2026. As part of the County Board of Supervisors approval, the current CUPA, including inspectors, administrative staff, and supervisors, will transfer to CCCFPD in its entirety, effective July 1, 2026.

As part of its review of the application for recertification, CalEPA Unified Program, on behalf of the Secretary, will hold a public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

The public hearing will be held virtually, and recorded, via Zoom on: Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 11:00 AM, using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85228396372?pwd=FjexGY9FkdsN6s7zKzP8amv62xbCpR.1>

Any person may present comments relevant to the application for recertification.

- To speak at the virtual public hearing, register prior to the hearing by sending an email to CUPA@calepa.ca.gov using the subject line "CCCHSD Public Hearing" indicating they wish

to speak during the hearing, including first and last name. Registered persons will be heard in the order of registration. Persons who did not register will be given an opportunity to speak once all registered persons have been heard. Oral comments and statements will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

- Written comments must be received by CalEPA no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday, June 25, 2026. Written comments must be submitted by email to CUPA@calepa.ca.gov using the subject line “Contra Costa County Application for Recertification Comments”

To request special accommodations, please contact Jennifer Rohde, Executive Assistant, Unified Program, CalEPA, at (916) 327-9559 or by email at Jennifer.Rohde@calepa.ca.gov before the hearing.

The CalEPA Unified Program, on behalf of the Secretary, shall consider oral and written comments received as part of the public hearing and public comment period in the determination of whether to approve or disapprove the application for recertification. The final decision to approve or disapprove the application for recertification shall be issued in writing to the County.

A copy of the Contra Costa County Application for Recertification is available upon request at CUPA@calepa.ca.gov using the subject line “Contra Costa County Application for Review”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

Procedural inquiries, requests for documents related to the proposed recertification, and requests for more information may be directed to the CalEPA Unified Program:

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