



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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Unified Program Newsletter December 2014

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California Environmental Protection Agency

Jennifer Benson named as CERS Technical Manager

Effective November 2014, the CalEPA Unified Program welcomes Jennifer Benson as the CERS Technical Manager. As a certified Project Management Professional with 27 years of information technology experience, ranging from small to large local, county and statewide projects at various state organizations, as well as in the private sector, involving application development, infrastructure deployment and systems integration, she is a valuable addition to our staff. Jennifer will also continue her involvement in portfolio management for CalEPA's Agency Information Officer, coordination and management of data exchange efforts with US EPA and CalEPA, and management of several infrastructure projects spanning across multiple Boards, Departments and Offices.

CUPA Directory Updates

As we enter the new year, please ensure that the online public CUPA Directory reflects appropriate contacts and references current information for your Unified Program Agency. The public CUPA Directory can be accessed online at: <http://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/Public/Directory> from various CalEPA webpages, including: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA>.

CERS: Limited Availability, Regularly Scheduled Maintenance

CalEPA attempts to have CERS services available as much as possible, however services are not intended to be provided on a 24-hour/7 days a week basis. Limited availability to the CERS Central and production Business and Regulator portal services due to regularly scheduled maintenance will occur as follows:

- **WEEKLY:**
 - Each Friday, between noon and 1:30 p.m.
 - Each Sunday, between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
 - *Exact time to be posted on CERS Business and Regulator Portal pages two hours in advance.*
- **MONTHLY:**
 - One Monday from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
 - *The selected Monday will vary from month to month.*
 - *Exact time to be posted on CERS Business and Regulator Portal pages two hours in advance.*
 - The third and/or fourth Sundays of each month from 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

CalEPA requests that all users refrain from using CERS services during all regularly scheduled maintenance times.

Please refer to the CERS Availability Policy (<http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/policy/availability>) for more information.

CERS Tips and Tricks

CERS Tips and Tricks include helpful explanations and resolutions regarding current issues recently received by the CERS Technical Support Team. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the CERS Technical Support Team at cers@calepa.ca.gov.

QUESTION: Can a local regulator create an organization for a business?

ANSWER: Yes. And, once the organization is created, the business can transfer their facilities into the organization.

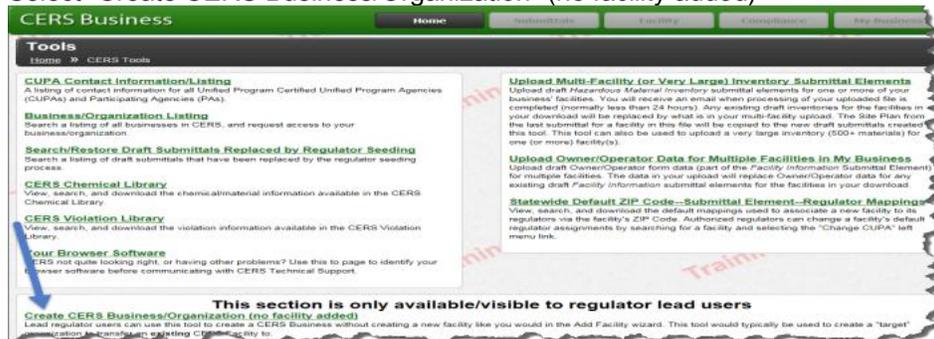
Here's how: ○ Regulator signs into the Business Portal



○ Select "Tools" in the top tool bar



- Select “Create CERS Business/Organization” (no facility added)



- Complete the following fields:
 - Organization Name, Headquarters, Origin, My Regulator



- Select “Save”

Look for other “CERS Tips and Tricks” in next month’s Unified Program Newsletter.

REMINDER: Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) Data must be entered into CERS
 Starting fiscal year 2014/2015, CME data must be submitted electronically within 30 days of each completed quarter [CCR Title 27, Division 1, Subdivision 4, Section 15290(b)]. Submittal deadlines are listed below:

Fiscal Year Quarterly CME Action Occurs (including updates)	Deadline for Electronic Submittal Of Quarterly CME Data
July 1 – September 30	October 30
October 1 – December 31	January 30
January 1 – March 31	April 30
April 1 – June 30	July 30

Beginning August 1, 2014, CUPAs will be evaluated on quarterly CME electronic reporting requirements for inspection and enforcement activities occurring on or after July 1, 2013.

All CME data must include the complete detail record fields identified in the CERS Regulator Portal (<http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/>) and defined in the Unified Program Data Dictionary (www.calepa.ca.gov/LawsRegs/Regulations/T27/DataDict.pdf).

For more information, please refer to Unified Program Guidance Letter 14-02 (<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA/Bulletins/2014/Jan17.pdf>).

Department of Toxic Substances Control

CUPA Hotline

The CUPA Hotline is no longer active and will not accept calls. If CUPAs have questions, they can contact the Regulatory Assistance Office or their contacts within DTSC. The link to our website is: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ContactDTSC/Regulatory-Assistance-Officers.cfm> and the information is provided below:

Regulatory Assistance Office

Call 1-800-728-6942 or RAO@dtsc.ca.gov

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Regulatory Assistance Officers respond to inquiries from the regulated community, environmental firms, other agencies, and the public at large about Department issues.

DTSC Regulatory Assistance Officer's role is to provide informal guidance about hazardous waste management, site cleanup and other DTSC regulatory information for the convenience of regulated businesses, other government agencies and the public. Such advice is not binding upon DTSC, nor does it have the force of law. If you would like a formal opinion on a matter by DTSC, please contact the responsible program office directly.

Within California, you can contact a Regulatory Assistance Officer by calling (800) 728-6942. If you are calling from out-of-state, please call (916) 255-3618.

In addition to the toll free number, you may email questions directly to the Regulatory Assistance Officers at: RAO@dtsc.ca.gov

Additionally, there is a Hazardous Waste Accumulation Time for Generators Fact Sheet that came out August 2014, see attached.

State Water Resources Control Board

U.S. EPA Evaluation of State Water Resources Control Board UST Leak Prevention Program

In February 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) evaluated the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) on its implementation of the underground storage tank (UST) provisions of the Energy Policy Act and other important provisions of the Federal UST Program. This was accomplished by reviewing records, procedures, and regulations within the State Water Board's UST Leak Prevention Program, as well as evaluating field inspections with Sacramento County, Fresno County, and Monterey County CUPAs.

As a result of U.S. EPA's evaluation, the State Water Board's UST Leak Prevention Program was found to meet and exceed national standards. California displayed strengths in advance leak detection, well-trained inspectors, and streamlined comprehensive inspections. Thank you to all CUPA/PAs for the ongoing collaborative and successful partnerships with the State Water Board, and for diligently implementing the State Water Board's vision.

The complete report of USEPA's evaluation of California and a letter commending California's significant work of implementing the UST Program, can be found on a new Water Board webpage titled, *EPA Evaluation of California UST Leak Prevention Program*, linked under "Hot Topics" of the UST Program Webpage at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/.

Single-Walled UST Permanent Closure - Email Distribution List

A new email distribution list for information regarding the December 31, 2025 single-walled UST permanent closure provisions of Senate Bill 445 has been created. Those who subscribe to this list will periodically receive key program information to assist with compliance of this requirement.

To subscribe, visit the website below and click on the box marked "Single-Walled UST Permanent Closure Requirement: Information and Updates on the Single-walled Underground Storage Tank Permanent Closure Requirement: December 31, 2025".

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/ust_subscribe.shtml

New CERS FAQ – General Reporting Requirements for USTs

A new California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) FAQ regarding the general reporting requirements for UST sites and whether all UST fields must be properly completed has been posted in the General Business Help Section of CERS, <https://cersbusiness.calepa.ca.gov/Help>. California Health and Safety Code chapter 6.11 requires that all Unified Program related information be reported electronically through CERS or a local reporting portal, if provided by the CUPA. There is an exception to this requirement outlined in the recent CalEPA Unified Program Guidance Letter 14-08, posted in <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA/Bulletins/>, as well as an updated CERS FAQ on Which UST Forms Must Be Uploaded, posted in <https://cersbusiness.calepa.ca.gov/Help>.

Although CERS allows a submission to be made when some fields are left blank, all appropriate UST related fields must be properly completed when applicable. Otherwise, it is incomplete. Not all data entry fields are applicable for all situations, however, and there is no requirement for a business to fill in fields that are not applicable. A CUPA or PA should reject a submittal if it is incomplete.

Regulation Change for Tanks in Flood Prone Areas

An amendment to the California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 5605 made by the Department of Industrial Relations became effective on October 1, 2014. The amended regulation makes changes to installation USTs installed in areas that may be subjected to flooding. USTs in areas that are prone to flooding, according to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps and flood zone definitions, must be anchored, weighted, or secured by an approved means. USTs installed after October 1, 2014 and in areas that may be subjected to flooding must be installed in accordance with the provisions of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30-2012. UTSs installed prior to October 1, 2014 must conform to either the provisions of NFPA 30-2012 or NFPA 30-1973, Appendix B. FEMA flood maps and flood zone definitions are found at <https://msc.fema.gov>.

The State Water Board letter posted at the link below was issued on December 1, 2014 informing UPAs and other interested parties about this amendment.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/tech_notices/docs/tank_flood_area2014.pdf

For a complete text of this regulation, visit the WestlawNext website at

[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IE1181F70F28A11E3AF75C503DB27CF3E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IE1181F70F28A11E3AF75C503DB27CF3E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

California Office of Emergency Services - None

CAL FIRE - Office of State Fire Marshal - None