

Unified Program Mission

To protect public health and safety, and to restore and enhance environmental quality, and sustain economic vitality through effective and efficient implementation of the Unified Program.

Unified Program Vision

The Unified Programs will continue to play an active role in policy oversight and implementation of the Unified Program. All Unified Program participants at the federal, state and local level shall engage in a quality of communication, which enhances mutual trust.

Goal 1: CUPAs and state partners to consistently implement the Unified Program statewide through effective and efficient collaboration, consolidation and coordination.

Problem Statement:

Inconsistencies in the Unified Program are due, in part, to lack of timely guidance and training.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Identify areas of inconsistencies and determine causes: intra-CUPA; intra-state partners, and CUPA to state partners.
- Develop a plan to address inconsistencies.

Long-term:

- Incorporate guidance into evaluation process.
- Develop a standardized process to evaluate state and federal partners.
- Develop a standardized process to evaluate PA's.
- Revamp CUPA evaluation process to include more sources of information.

Goal 2: Create CUPA / State Partners / US EPA partnerships for effective program governance.

Problem Statement:

Direct executive support and engagement is lacking – and is needed to support strong partnerships.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Engage state partners.
- Solicit executive support from state partners.
- Review existing governance structure.
- Leverage all resources.
- Create processes to meet the needs of CUPAs and state partners.

Goal 3: Prioritize work based on risk and/or cumulative impacts to public health and safety.

Problem Statement:

Inspections are currently done based on mandated frequency schedules. High-risk and “problem” facilities are inspected no more frequently than facilities with a history of compliance. Public health and safety could be better served if inspectors focused on high-risk facilities and areas with high cumulative impacts.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Develop a clear definition of the goals and objectives of the process including the definitions of “Workload Prioritization” within the cumulative impact process.
- Develop criteria to determine prioritization categories to including, but not limited to:
 - Risk
 - Compliance history
 - Impacts
- Review statutes and regulations to determine whether changes are necessary. (Note: determine need to change any laws and regulations prior to implementing a pilot program.)
- Develop a pilot program. Include the metrics to evaluate the success of the pilot program.
- Pursue statutory and regulatory changes.

Long-term:

- Develop a communication plan to explain approach.
- Implement pilot program and evaluate efficacy.

Goal 4: Simplify, streamline, update and make consistent statutes, regulations and guidelines for the Unified Program.

Problem Statement:

Title 27 and other statutes, regulations and guidelines contain some outdated, conflicting and redundant language.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Identify redundancies, conflicts and outdated laws, regulation and guidelines.
- Identify opportunities for consolidation to create standardized requirements across program elements.

Long-term:

- Prioritize list of changes identified in strategies 1 and 2.
- Develop an action plan to update statutes, regulations and guidelines.

Goal 5: Improve training of Unified Program personnel.

Problem Statement:

Inconsistencies in the Unified Program are due, in part, to lack of statewide consistency in training requirements and tracking.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Identify training and delivery needs for Unified personnel.
- Further develop the Training Framework and standardized training curriculum.
- Create an electronic training record for each inspector.
- Develop training coordination and delivery mechanisms for efficient and effective training delivery.

Long-term:

- Create a train-the-trainer program.
- Develop internet-based and virtual training.
- Develop a training recognition program.

Goal 6: Create consistent, quality business compliance assistance statewide.

Problem Statement:

Businesses are not always able to correctly interpret statutes and regulations. Assistance to help them comply would benefit industry and meet the goals of the Unified Program for environmental protection and human health and safety.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Survey CUPA's, state partners and industry to determine needs and successful outreach methods.
- Prioritize needs and outreach methods.
- Develop a Compliance Assistance Plan.

Long-term:

- Implement the Compliance Assistance Plan.

Goal 7: Implement a comprehensive and effective communication program across all levels and stakeholders.

Problem Statement:

Communication between CUPA's, state partners and stakeholders is critical to the success of the Unified Program.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Perform a needs assessment to determine communication priorities and gaps – including linkages with other strategic planning goals.
- Develop a comprehensive, statewide communication strategy.
- Implement the communications strategy.

Long-term:

- Develop a monitoring and feedback loop that incorporates best practices.

Goal 8: Maximize the use of technology to support and advance the Unified Program.

Problem Statement:

Utilizing current technology would assist the Unified Program by improving data capture, data transfer and communications.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Identify opportunities and obstacles to utilize current technology including social media, etc.
- Identify funding sources to support technology activities and solutions.
- Develop tools to enhance data capture and transfer from permitting and inspection activities across all Unified Program activities.

Long-term:

- Create a process to keep up with technology and share best practices.

Goal 9: Quantify and document benefits of the Unified Program to create a program management tool.

Problem Statement:

There is no way to measure the success of the Unified Program and the benefits to the citizens of California.

Strategies / Objectives:

Short-term:

- Establish historical information on environmental and public health indicators (ties to the Environmental Protection Indications [EPIC Mode] project).
- Develop performance measures.
- Identify data to be gathered and research sources.
- Gather and process data.

Long-term:

- Use metrics as adaptive management tool to improve Unified Program.