

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

FACT SHEET: CALIFORNIA'S ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) INITIATIVE

AUGUST 2014

Since November 2012, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have been working with local regulatory agencies to address the backlog of abandoned or improperly closed underground storage tanks (USTs).

Achieving Compliance

The State Water Board **obtained compliance at 44% of 339 Abandoned UST Sites** through regulatory actions, research, and data cleanup. These sites had tanks storing fuel or other potentially hazardous products and had not completed tank closure and cleanup requirements.

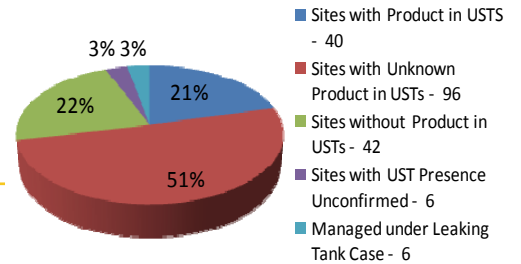
To assist with addressing the backlog of Abandoned UST Sites, the State Water Board and U.S. EPA have developed enforcement and guidance tools. The State Water Board issued **183 Notices of Non-**

Compliance and followed up with Notices of Violation at 95 sites.

Property owners **removed 84 USTs from 36 sites.** Property owners of over 40 sites have claimed financial hardship. The State Water Board is assisting these owners with accessing funding programs, including the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) and Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Storage Tank (RUST) Loan and Grant Programs. U.S. EPA is assisting some sites through their Brownfields Program.

149 Abandoned UST Sites have achieved compliance, including the removal of 84 USTs.

190 Out of Compliance Sites - Status of Tank Contents



Promoting Neighborhood Revitalization

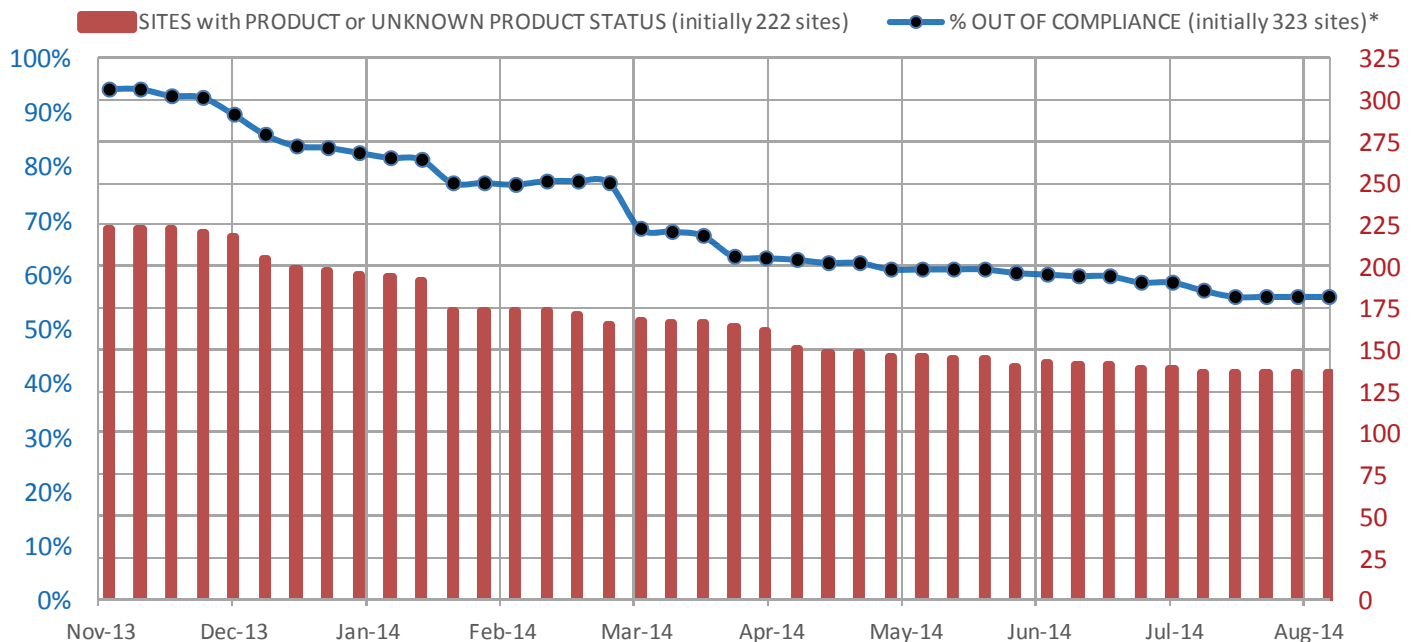
Environmental justice priority areas have been identified in **Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties**, using CalEnviroScreen data from California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). Abandoned gas station properties can be advantageous resources for community revitalization in these neighborhoods that are impacted by environmental and health hazards.

Due to the high cleanup costs, many of these sites in California have remained vacant or underutilized for decades. U.S. EPA and the State Water Board are working with local agencies, property owners, and community development partners to assess and cleanup these sites, making them available for resale and reuse, bringing businesses and jobs back into these underserved areas.

Abandoned UST Initiative Goals:

1. Achieve compliance at all Abandoned UST Sites.
2. Determine whether abandoned USTs still contain product, and remove any product present.

Abandoned UST Sites - Compliance Status



*The initial Abandoned UST site inventory in April 2013 was 323 sites. As of November 2013, Out of Compliance sites had already fallen to 305 sites. Sixteen additional sites were reported by UPAs in 2013/2014 for a total of 339 sites--UPAs report additional sites as inspectors discover evidence of USTs, or after tank owners allow permits to lapse without seeking closure. The 16 "new" Out of Compliance sites reported make up 4.7% of the total site inventory tracked (339 sites).

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