

July 30, 2025

Rick Encarnacion, REHS, MPH
Bureau Chief, Director of Environmental Health
Monterey County Health Department
1270 Natividad Road
Salinas, California 93906-3122

Dear Mr. Encarnacion:

From May 2021 through February 2022, CalEPA and the Unified Program state agencies conducted a performance evaluation of the Monterey County Health Department Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The evaluation comprised of an assessment of administrative documentation, regulated facility file documentation, and California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) information.

The Final Summary of Findings Report issued to the CUPA for the 2021 CUPA performance evaluation included program deficiencies and incidental findings with corresponding corrective actions and resolutions.

Of the 26 deficiencies identified, 20 are considered corrected or closed. Of the three incidental findings identified, all are considered resolved.

The following 6 deficiencies will be carried forward to the 2025 evaluation:

- The CUPA is not inspecting each Hazardous Waste Generator (HWG) facility once every three years (Deficiency #1).
- The CUPA is not consistently following up and documenting return to compliance (RCT) information in CERS for Hazardous Waste Generator (HWG) facilities cited with violations (Deficiency #2).
- The CUPA is not consistently conducting complete annual Underground Storage Tank (UST) compliance inspections (Deficiency #5).
- The CUPA is not consistently or correctly reporting complete and accurate compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) information to CERS for the HWG Program (Deficiency #10).
- The CUPA is not ensuring all regulated businesses subject to Business Plan reporting requirements annually submit a complete Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) or a no-change certification to CERS (Deficiency 12).
- The CUPA is not ensuring UST Program related information in CERS is accurate and complete (Deficiency #17).

Throughout the Evaluation Progress Report process, the CUPA demonstrated improvement in Unified Program implementation and remains committed to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. Therefore, CalEPA is suspending the Program Improvement Agreement (PIA) established with the CUPA

upon completion of the 2021 evaluation. Reinstatement or dissolution of the PIA will be determined upon conclusion of the 2025 evaluation.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the protection of public health and the environment through the implementation of the Unified Program.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact John Paine, Unified Program Manager, at (916) 327-5092.

Sincerely,



Jason Boetzer, REHS
Deputy Secretary
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