



# California CUPA

Enhancing public health, safety & the environment



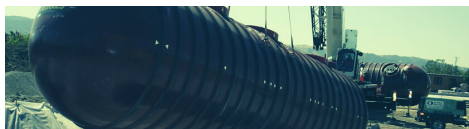
## What is CUPA?

A Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is a local agency certified every three years by CalEPA to implement several state regulatory inspection initiatives, consolidate the enforcement of state and local hazardous materials and waste laws, and perform emergency response functions.

## History

In the early 1990s, the regulation of hazardous materials and waste, as well as local emergency response, was diffused across more than 1,100 local and state agencies in California. In 1993, the Governor signed California Senate Bill 1082, establishing the CUPA program. The law enabled the consolidation of the administration, permit, inspection, and enforcement activities of many environmental and emergency management programs. City and County agencies could apply to become a CUPA and receive delegated authority from State agencies to enforce a variety of laws in their jurisdiction. Additionally, a local agency could apply to be a Participating Agency (PA) working with a CUPA to implement only a portion of the delegated programs.

Soon after, CUPAs and PAs throughout the state formed the California CUPA Forum to coordinate Unified Program implementation efforts and represent all unified program agencies with a single voice. California CUPA Forum members and local, state and federal agency representatives established the Unified Program Administration and Advisory Group (UPAAG) to effectively address policy decisions, training and problem solving.



## Key programs administered

- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA)
- California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP)
- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventories (HMRRP)
- Hazardous Material Management Plan (HMMP) and Hazardous Material Inventory Statements (HMIS)
- Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment
- Underground Storage Tank Program (UST)

## CalCUPA Forum Board

The California CUPA Forum is run by an elected board. The Board consists of local fire and environmental health representatives who come together to discuss strategies and positions on state initiatives and requirements; to foster and provide training; and to consolidate, coordinate and make consistent unified program implementation. For more information, visit [calcupa.org](http://calcupa.org).



*"The state and local partnership of the CUPA program is a key component in protecting public health and the environment in California, with over 130,000 inspections conducted annually."*

**Caroline Godkin,**  
**CalEPA Deputy Secretary**

## State Agency Engagement

*State oversight of CUPA is provided by:*

- Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

*For more information, visit [calepa.ca.gov/cupa](http://calepa.ca.gov/cupa)*

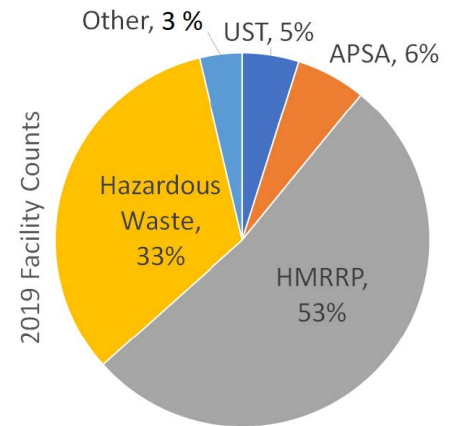
# Major Accomplishments of California CUPA Program

## Increased Number of Inspections

CUPAs and PAs have expanded routine inspections of the regulated community during 26 years of existence. In the first year, just 17,000 inspections were completed, compared to over 130,000 per year in 2019. Increased and consistent inspections throughout the state have led to overall higher regulatory compliance within the regulated community.

*"More facilities and businesses are being inspected, more are being captured by the unified program elements...leading to more compliance throughout the state than ever before. Program Agencies are held to specific standards and expectations, and through collaboration and coordination with the State oversight agencies, are for the most part in compliance. There is no question that CUPA has brought businesses and facilities into alignment with environmental requirements better than ever before."*

**Past-Chair Eric Scott, Glenn County CUPA**



## Improved program consistency

Through its partnerships with the California Fire Chiefs Association and the California Association of Environmental Health Administrators, the CUPA Forum Board is actively engaged in establishing, simplifying, and updating laws and regulations that govern the program. The CUPA Forum Board and these agencies have developed guidance documents and extensive technical training to assist regulators and the regulated community understand and comply with environmental laws.

*"The technical, legal, and evolving disciplines within program elements could not be delivered by a sole training provider, and they needed to be statewide in a consistent and coordinated manner. Training activities and coordination became a priority early on and has remained so. In collaboration with state partners, the CUPA Forum has facilitated an annual 4-day training conference with over 2,600 attendees and as many as 145 technical sessions for the past 22 years - surpassing all related events in the country."*

**Kathryn Rogers, Intel Corporation**

## Greater government efficiency through close collaboration with state oversight agencies

The CUPAs have worked with CalOSHA on inspections of refineries and other facilities subject to the California Accidental Release Prevention Program. CUPAs with petroleum refineries in their jurisdictions have participated in CalEPA's Refinery Interagency Task Force that includes representatives from state agencies and regional air districts. Additionally, CUPAs have performed joint inspections of hazardous waste generators and aboveground storage tanks with state agencies and the US EPA. Also, state agencies and CUPAs have worked together on enforcement and prosecution of violators.

*"The cooperation between local CUPAs and the CUPA Forum Board with prosecutors in statewide investigations and prosecutions of environmental violations has been extremely important and has yielded outstanding results."*

**Robert Nichols, California District Attorneys Association**

## Enhanced emergency response capabilities

Over the past 20 years, CUPAs have noted fewer major incidents occurring at regulated businesses in their jurisdictions. Data indicate that preventative measures result in fewer facility incidents, and when they do occur, they are less significant.

## Effective program efficacy verification

For 7 years, the regulated community has been required to report through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) or directly to a local CUPA. Regulated businesses and local governments exchange data with CalEPA through a centralized data portal, enabling faster data retrieval and better information verification regarding each of the program's 140,000 regulated entities.

## Training Regulators and Engaging the Regulated Community

Since 1998, the CUPA Forum has hosted a statewide annual training conference to promote knowledge advancement, consistency, and a forum to directly engage industry leaders and public officials. The annual CUPA Conference is one of the largest environmental training venues in the nation with over 2,600 attendees from local, state and federal hazmat, fire and environmental health agencies as well as industry, environmental consultants, academia, students, public officials and exhibitors. The conference offers a one-stop training shop for businesses and regulators with over 200 expert speakers providing 145 comprehensive training classes over 4 days.