



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P.O. BOX 1460

Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM

California state law sets strict requirements for the construction, maintenance, inspection, testing, and use of underground tanks used for the storage of hazardous substances. The law also requires the implementation of a Unified Program, overseen by the California Environmental Protection Agency. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the unincorporated County communities and most cities in Los Angeles County and coordinated fee collection for underground storage tanks (USTs) within its jurisdiction.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is a Participating Agency with the CUPA and regulates USTs in the unincorporated County communities and 77 cities. To protect against the harmful effects caused by leakage of hazardous materials, the Underground Storage Tank Program inspects more than 4,400 USTs annually to verify the integrity of the tanks and monitoring devices.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protecting the health of County residents is the primary goal of the Program, but it's not the only benefit. In Los Angeles County's Mediterranean climate, water is in limited supply. The beneficial use of the ground on which Los Angeles County was built, and the water that is stored beneath it, must also be protected to safeguard the underground aquifers that make up to 33 percent of the region's drinking water supply.

WHAT WE DO

Many businesses (such as gas stations) store gasoline and other hazardous materials in USTs. These materials are necessary to meet the everyday needs of society, but they can be very harmful if they are released into the soil, water, or air; therefore, they must be properly managed and stored. The Program's engineers evaluate each UST application to determine if the type of UST system being used, as well as the various components and monitoring devices that ensure the integrity of the system throughout its life, are compatible with the hazardous material being stored. Public Works inspects UST facilities annually to verify that all monitoring devices are working and any needed repairs are done expeditiously.

WHY THE PROPOSED INCREASE NOW

Over the past several years, many new Federal and State laws and regulations have been adopted that increase Program requirements, such as electronic reporting and vapor, pressure, and hydrostatic (VPH) monitoring. These requirements have increased the workload and costs to implementing the Program. However, with the exception of annual inflation adjustments, the fees have not been increased since 2001. Because of tough economic conditions, consideration of a fee increase was put on hold. Public Works is now proposing a fee increase that would enable the Program to perform all of its duties to protect the health of the residents of the County and the environment. If the proposed ordinance is approved, fee increases would be gradually implemented over several years, with the exception of the annual maintenance fee, which would be implemented in the first year (see chart on back page).

Any fee increase or new fee must be approved by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) after a public hearing in which the Board will hear testimony from members of the public.

Underground Storage Tank Fee Increase and Ordinance Revision Impacting Your Facility

Esta información esta disponible en español en la pagina electronica:
www.dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/ust
Llamar para mas información:
(626) 458-3517

Notice of Public Information Meeting

A Public Information Meeting will be held to discuss the proposed revisions to the Underground Storage Tank Ordinance and fee increase.

**Tuesday
April 21, 2015
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA
Conference Room B**



PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF PROGRAM FEES

UST permit holders are charged an annual maintenance fee to cover the costs associated with annual inspections and related activities. If the proposed ordinance is approved, permittees would see an increase in their annual maintenance fee. The current and proposed annual maintenance fees can be found in the chart below.



Fees for permit application, plan review, and other miscellaneous fees would also increase over the next five years. Three new fees are proposed for Permit Noncompliance, Reinspection, and Resubmittal of Plan Clearance to recover costs associated with these activities, which are not covered by the existing fees. This would allow the Program to charge lower fees to permittees who maintain compliant systems and applicants who submit complete applications.



CHANGES TO THE UST ORDINANCE

To incorporate the State regulations that have been adopted since 2001, the Board will consider technical changes to the UST ordinance, as well as the proposed fee increases and new fees.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Public Works will be holding a public information meeting to obtain your feedback.

The meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 21, 2015,

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

County of Los Angeles

Department of Public Works

900 S. Fremont Ave.

Alhambra, CA 91803

Conference Room B



Those unable to attend the meeting may email written comments by April 21, 2015 to USTunit@dpw.lacounty.gov.

For more information go to <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/ust>

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Environmental Programs Division Underground Storage Tank Proposed Fees Beginning Fiscal Year 2015-16

Description	2014-15 Fee	Proposed Fee 2015-16	Proposed Fee 2016-17	Proposed Fee 2017-18	Proposed Fee 2018-19	Proposed Fee 2019-20
UST Operating Permit Per Facility ⁽²⁾	\$254	\$352	\$450	\$450+CPI	\$450+CPI	\$450+CPI
UST Operating Permit Per Tank ⁽²⁾	\$54	\$74	\$93	\$93+CPI	\$93+CPI	\$93+CPI
UST Annual Maintenance Fee Per Facility ⁽²⁾	\$633	\$1,252	\$1,252+CPI	\$1,252+CPI	\$1,252+CPI	\$1,252+CPI
UST Annual Maintenance Fee Per Tank ⁽²⁾	\$131	\$240	\$240+CPI	\$240+CPI	\$240+CPI	\$240+CPI
UST Operating Permit Transfer ⁽²⁾	\$289	\$412	\$535	\$658	\$781	\$781+CPI
UST Modification/Construction Plan Clearance Per Facility ⁽²⁾	\$420	\$655	\$890	\$1,125	\$1,360	\$1,596
UST Modification/Construction Plan Clearance Per Tank ⁽²⁾	\$127	\$196	\$265	\$334	\$403	\$470
UST Closure Application Per Facility ⁽²⁾	\$366	\$495	\$624	\$752	\$881	\$1,009
UST Closure Application Per Tank ⁽²⁾	\$110	\$148	\$186	\$223	\$262	\$298
Permit Addendum ⁽²⁾	\$463	\$600	\$736	\$736+CPI	\$736+CPI	\$736+CPI
New Fees⁽¹⁾						
Permit Noncompliance ⁽²⁾		\$743	\$1,486	\$2,230	\$2,973	\$3,716
Reinspection Fee ⁽²⁾		\$395	\$790	\$790+CPI	\$790+CPI	\$790+CPI
Resubmittal For New Plan Clearance ⁽²⁾		\$337	\$674	\$674+CPI	\$674+CPI	\$674+CPI

Note:

(1) Three new fees are proposed to recover costs associated with activities that will not be covered by the existing fees.

(2) All fees would be subject to annual adjustments for increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), per Los Angeles County Code Title 11, Section 11.82.045.