

PROGRESS REPORT: CALIFORNIA ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) INITIATIVE

DECEMBER 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 the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) to address a backlog of abandoned or improperly closed Underground Storage Tanks (USTs).

Partnering on Redevelopment

U.S. EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program **removed four USTs** in August while conducting a site assessment at the American & Foreign site in Fresno. The event generated broad **media coverage via local ABC and CBS** TV stations, as well as print stories in the *Fresno Bee* and several other local outlets.

The site is just a few blocks from a planned high-speed rail station near Chukchansi Park in downtown Fresno. The owner plans to redevelop the property into a restaurant.

EPA recently accepted **two more abandoned UST sites—both in Los Angeles County—into the TBA Program**. A Watts nonprofit will support its youth programs by building a basketball court at one site, and a South Los Angeles church will develop a community center at the other.



Workshop for Property Owners

The State Water Board and U.S. EPA organized a Tank Removal Workshop in December 2014, hosted at Los Angeles County Department of Public Works offices. The workshop provided **assistance to property owners claiming financial hardship**.

Representatives of 18 abandoned tank sites attended from Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. Laura Fisher of the State Water Board (pictured below) explained the Initiative and discussed available State resources, while Joe Baiocco (LA County), Jose May and Greg Beach (both of San Bernardino County) described enforcement repercussions for non-compliance.

Participants broke into small groups to learn how the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) and the Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Storage Tank (RUST) Loan and Grant Programs offer financial assistance. One-on-one support was also provided. At right, Janice Clemons (RUST Program) and Nestor Correa (loan officer at Pacific Coast Regional SBDC) share options with site owners.

176 sites have come into compliance, including the removal or closure of 123 USTs.



Achieving Compliance

As of December 15, 2014, the Abandoned UST Initiative:

- ◆ Obtained **compliance at 52%** of the 341 Abandoned Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites. See reverse for graph of progress and **Figures 1-4** for maps.
- ◆ Issued **188 Notices of Non-Compliance** and followed up with **122 Notices of Violation**.
- ◆ Obtained **access to 19 sites**, where tank surveys may be performed to locate, gauge, and remove material remaining in the tanks.
- ◆ Issued **96 courtesy follow-up letters** offering free one-on-one consultations to owners.

An **updated inventory** and other information is available at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/abandoned_storage.shtml

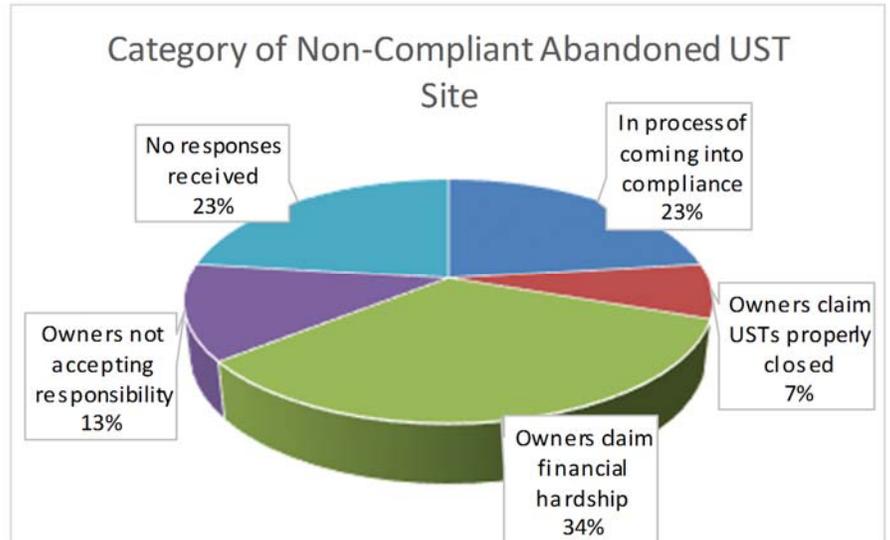


Obtaining Further Compliance & Reducing Risks

The State Water Board has categorized sites that remain out of compliance (see right) in order to guide future efforts. The State Water Board will conduct tank surveys on eligible properties whose owners claim financial hardship and grant site access. Tank surveys will include **gauging tanks and removing any product that is present**. Assistance with funding programs for site assessment and tank removal will also continue.

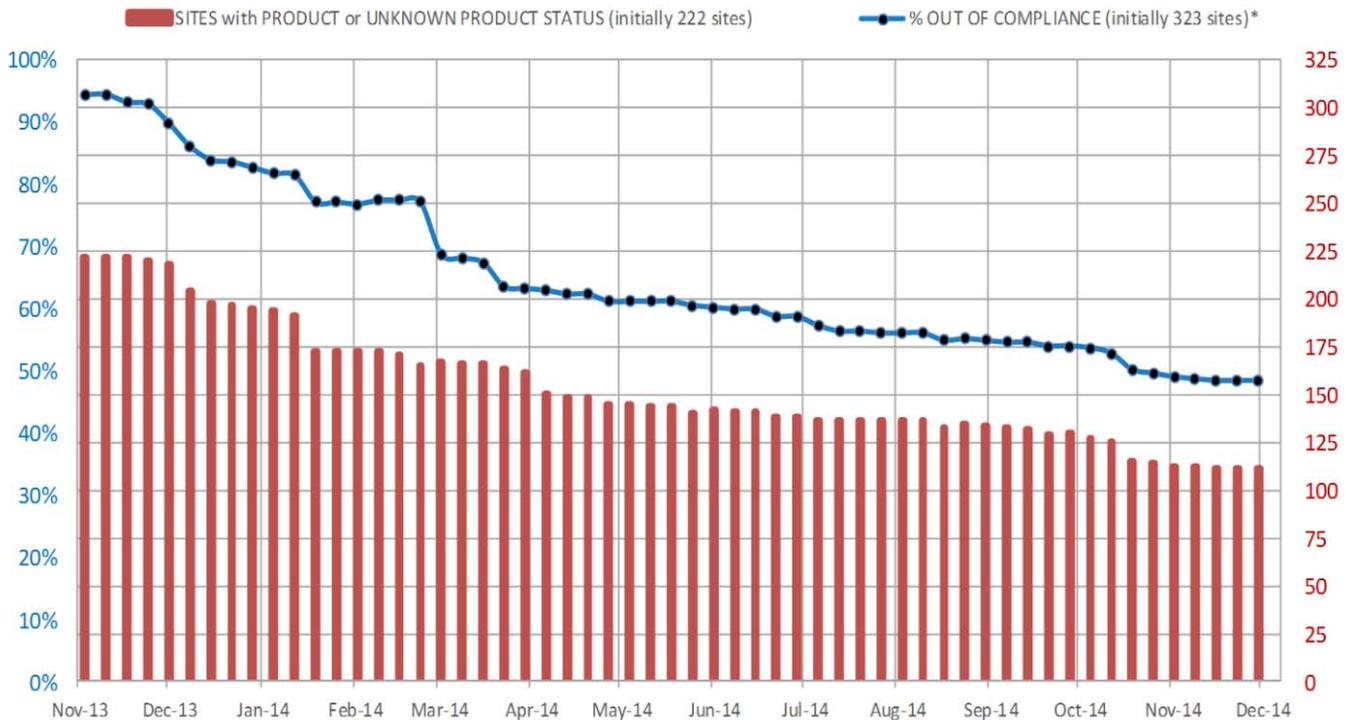
UST Program staff will also **coordinate with Office of Enforcement staff** to address sites with owners that have not responded to state-issued notices, as well as those sites with disputes.

For each approach, sites that pose a potential threat to sensitive populations or water resources will be prioritized. The Abandoned UST Initiative will **explore alternative codes and tools** to address compliance issues with city and county departments outside the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs).

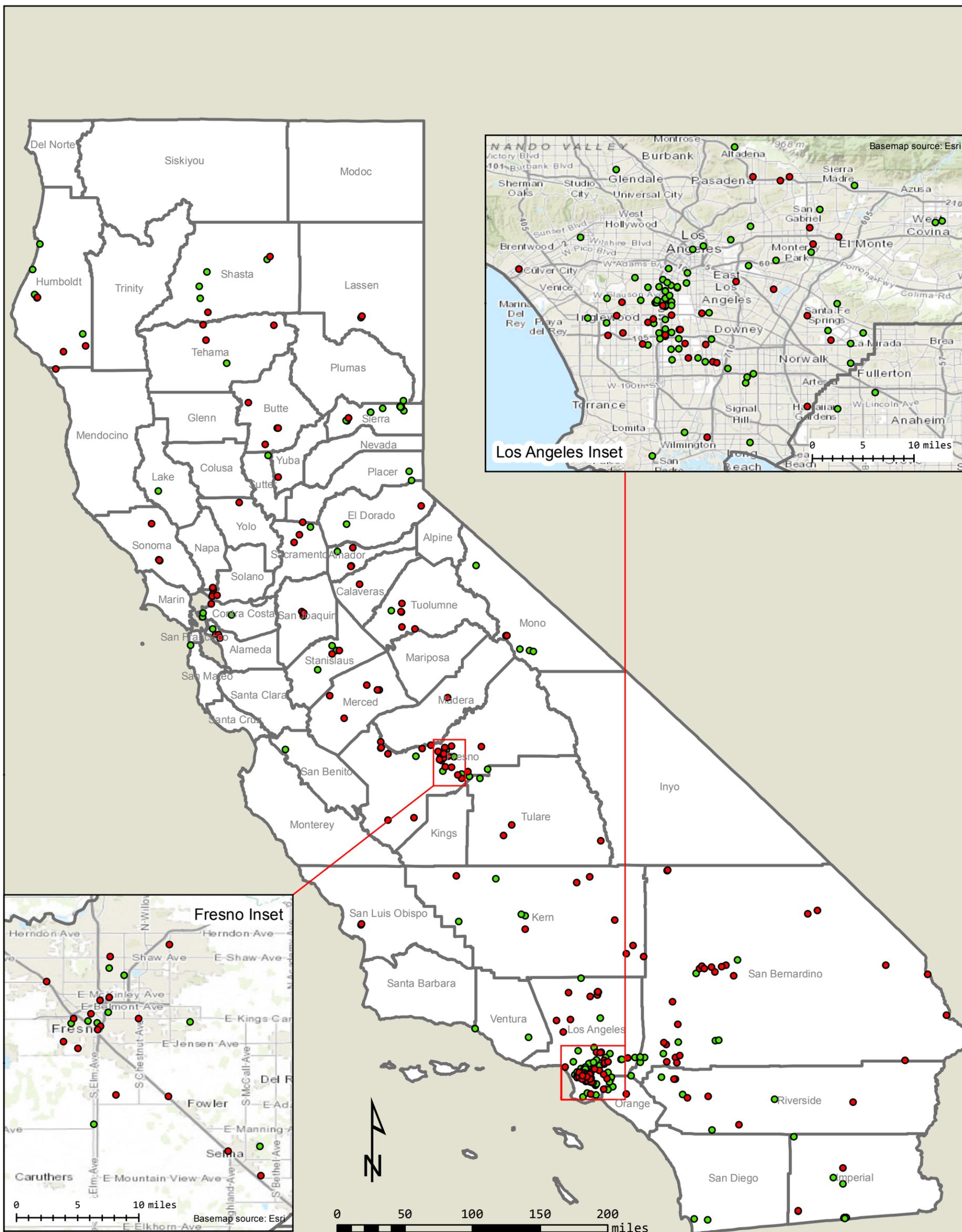


The State Water Board is working with U.S. EPA and the CUPAs on site-specific strategies for the 165 sites remaining out of compliance.

Abandoned UST Sites - Compliance Status



*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. Eighteen additional sites were reported by UPAs in 2013/2014 for a total of 341 sites--UPAs report additional sites as inspectors discover evidence of USTs, or after tank owners allow permits to lapse without seeking closure. The 18 "new" Out of Compliance sites reported make up 5.3% of the total site inventory tracked (341 sites).



● Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (176)
● Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (165)*
 California County Boundary

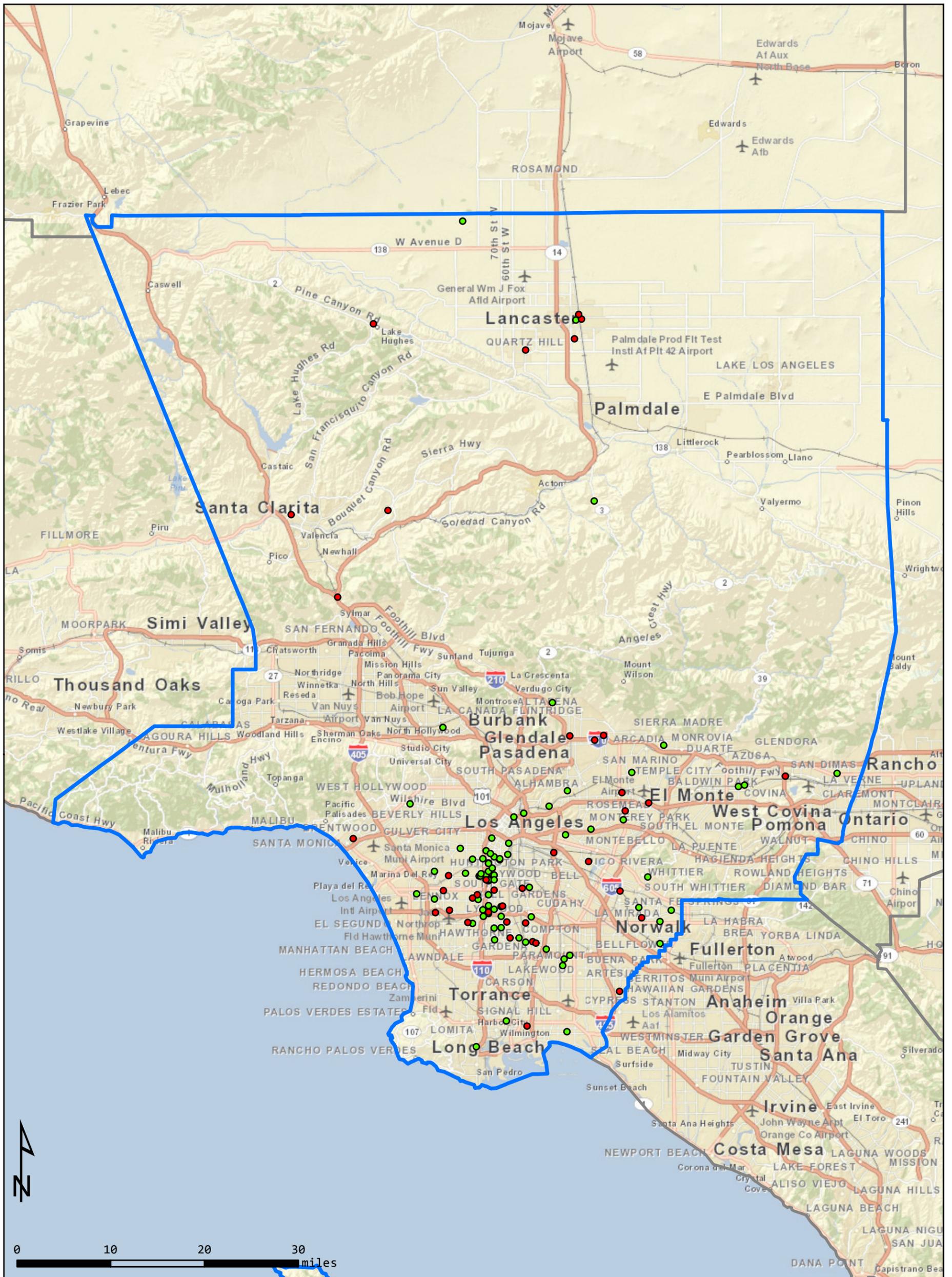
Notes:
 * Includes 6 sites where further investigation is needed to confirm the presence of abandoned USTs.

There were originally 323 Abandoned UST sites reported by the CUPAs. Eighteen additional sites were reported by CUPAs after the original inventory was created.

County boundary source: U.S. Census Bureau

Prepared as part of Cooperative Agreement L-99T11601 between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 9 and the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) utilizing Interagency Agreement DW96958588 between USEPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

FIGURE 1
California Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--341 Sites
December 2014



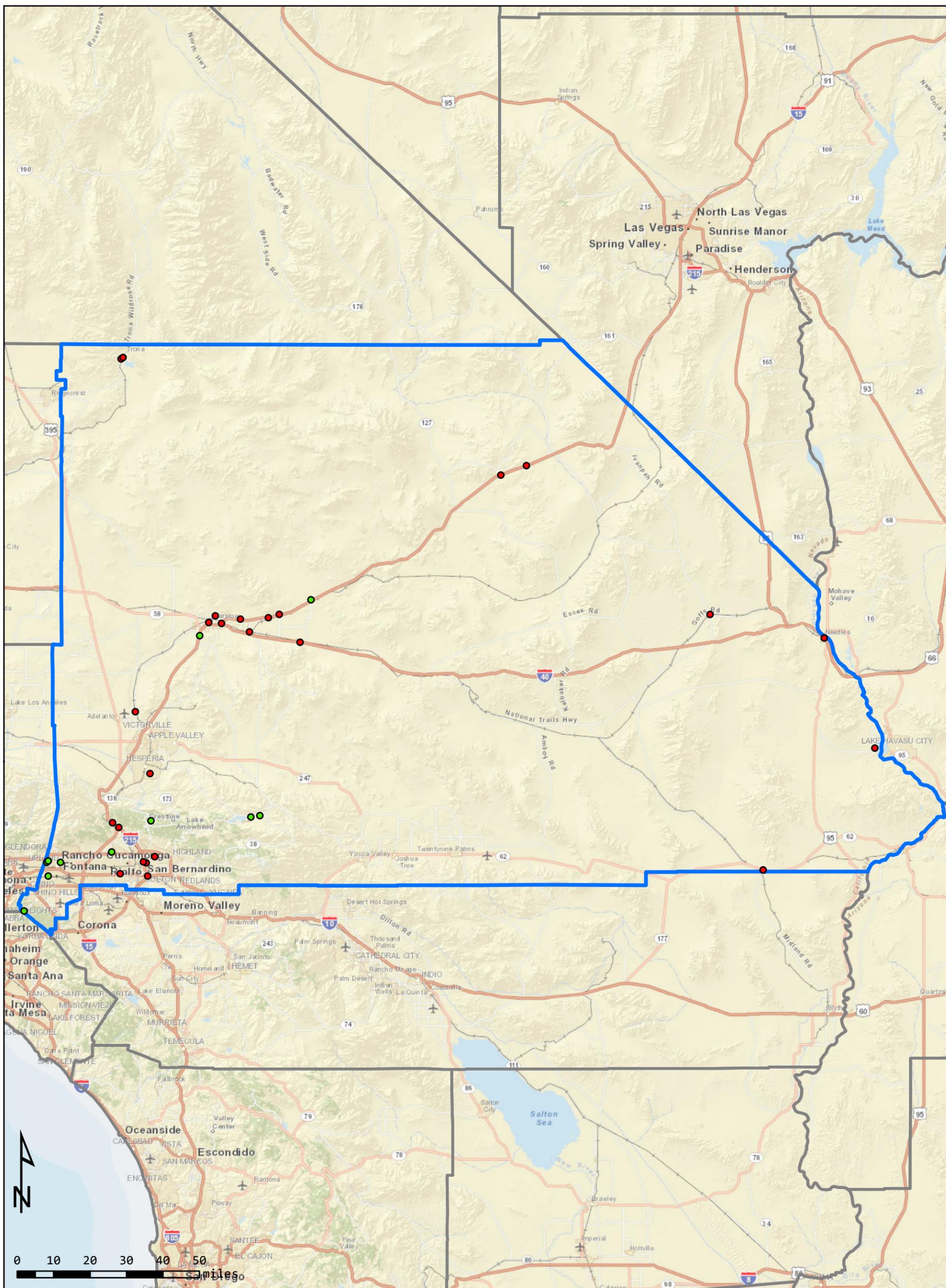
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (75)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (39)*

- Los Angeles County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

Notes:
 * Includes 5 sites where further investigation is needed to confirm the presence of abandoned USTs.
 Includes all sites reported by UPAs with jurisdiction in Los Angeles County.
 Basemap source: Esri
 County boundary source: U.S. Census Bureau

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FIGURE 2
Los Angeles County Abandoned
Underground Storage Tanks--114 Sites
December 2014



- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (12)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (25)*
- Los Angeles County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

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Notes:
 * Includes 1 site where further investigation is needed to confirm the presence of abandoned USTs.
 Basemap source: Esri
 County boundary source: U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE 3
San Bernardino County Abandoned
Underground Storage Tanks--37 Sites
December 2014



- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (12)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (26)
- Fresno County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

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Notes:
 Basemap source: Esri
 County boundary source: U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE 4
Fresno County Abandoned
Underground Storage Tanks--38 Sites

December 2014