



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

News Release

WEB SITE conservation.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NR#2015-27
December 4, 2015

Contact: Teresa Schilling/Don Drysdale/Krista Watson
(916) 323-1886 or pao@conservation.ca.gov

LATEST WATER USE DATA FOR CALIFORNIA OIL FIELDS NOW AVAILABLE FROM DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Conservation (DOC) today provided [second-quarter data](#) about the oil and gas industry's handling of water, required by a new law. DOC also issued Notices of Violations to 56 California operators who failed to report data on time. Failure to timely remedy the noted violation by providing such reporting subjects an operator to fines.

“We have a much more complete picture of how much water is produced, injected, disposed of, and otherwise utilized in state oil fields in this Quarter 2 report than in the initial report,” said State Oil and Gas Supervisor Steve Bohlen, head of DOC's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. “Notably, we collected data from all of the major oil and gas operators. We account for about 90 percent of the water associated with oil and gas production in Quarter 2, as opposed to roughly half of it in Quarter 1.”

The new quarterly reporting process, required under Senate Bill 1281 (Pavley, 2014), includes about 250 data points both for individual wells and fields. A key goal of the data collection is to determine whether more treated water from oil production can be put to further productive use in oil and gas activities or beneficial uses.

All California operators are required to report water data under the new law. The Quarter 2 data includes reports from 297 operators, 55 more than the Quarter 1 report, which was posted in August and is available [here](#). Notices of Violations have been sent to 56 operators known to be producing that failed to submit water data. Operators who do not file the data within 10 calendar days of receiving the notice can face a fine of up to \$25,000 per violation, an order to halt production until the violation is remedied, an order to plug and abandon wells, or some combination of those penalties.

“Most of the statistical differences between quarters 1 and 2 have little or nothing to do with changes in oilfield practices, but instead represent refinements in the reporting process, both at the operators' and our end,” Bohlen said. “We're early in the process of implementing the law and we expect operators will continue to improve compliance. The Notices of Violation and possible fines indicate that we're serious about getting the data.”

The Department of Conservation's mission is to balance today's needs with tomorrow's challenges and foster intelligent, sustainable, and efficient use of California's energy, land, and mineral resources.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

801 K STREET ● MS 24-07 ● SACRAMENTO, CA. 95814 ● PHONE 916 / 323-1886 ● FAX 916 / 323-1887 ● TDD 916 / 324-2555

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources oversees oil and gas production in California, emphasizing the wise development of oil, natural gas, and geothermal resources through sound engineering practices that protect the environment, prevent pollution, and ensure public safety. California is increasingly reliant on renewable energy resources, but fossil fuels remain critical to our economy. Roughly one-third of the oil used in California is produced from California oil and gas reservoirs, most in the San Joaquin Valley.

To ensure that oil is produced in a way that protects the environment and public health, the California Department of Conservation earlier this year released a Renewal Plan to overhaul its regulatory program. The Renewal Plan is available [here](#).

###