



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Managing California's Working Lands

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

801 K STREET • MS 24-07 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 323-1886 • FAX 916 / 323-1887 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEB SITE conservation.ca.gov

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Contact: Ed Wilson
Don Drysdale
Krista Watson

MEETINGS SET TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON SCOPE, CONTENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR WELL STIMULATION

Hearings for Comments to be Held in Five Communities in December, January

SACRAMENTO – Public input on the scope and content of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for statewide well stimulation activities will be taken at five upcoming scoping meetings. The meetings are aimed at local governments, public agencies, organizations and individuals. The EIR is mandated by SB 4. Once in draft form, the EIR will be circulated for specific comments on its analysis and conclusions. SB 4 also required proposed regulations to impose safeguards on and collect information about well stimulation activities, which were released by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) on November 15.

“To be clear, the EIR and the proposed regulations are related, but are on separate, parallel tracks,” DOC Director Mark Nechodom said. “We will have separate meetings and other methods for the public to comment on these distinct processes. Both are important. At the EIR scoping meetings, we’re seeking public input on what the EIR should address with respect to the impacts from existing and future well stimulation activities. Separate hearings are scheduled for the regulations. The public should be aware that comments on the EIR scope are not comments on the regulations, and vice versa.”

The EIR will address all of the environmental factors required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – things such as land-use planning, aesthetics, air quality, noise and impacts to wildlife. DOC must certify the EIR by July 1, 2015. The scoping process helps to identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in depth in the EIR. Scoping is also an effective way to bring together and address the concerns of the public, affected agencies, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

The scoping meetings will be held as follows:

? Oakland, 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 10, Oakland Convention Center, 550 10th St..

? Sacramento, 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 11, Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I Street.

? Bakersfield, 4 to 8 p.m., Thursday, December 12, Kern County Library Beale Memorial Auditorium, 701 Truxtun Avenue.

? Ventura, 4 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, January 8, Ventura College Performing Arts Center, 4700 Loma Vista Road.

? Long Beach, 4 to 8 p.m., Thursday, January 9, Long Beach Convention Center, 300 E. Ocean Boulevard.

The Notice of Preparation for the EIR can be found at

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/Index/Pages/Index.aspx> or

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/Index.aspx>. Comments on the Notice of Preparation may be submitted via email to SB4EIR@conservation.ca.gov or via mail to Ms. Adele Lagomarsino, California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, 801 K Street, MS 18-00 Sacramento, CA 95814-353. All comments must be received on or before January 16, 2014 at 5 p.m.

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