



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NR#2015-01

January 14, 2015

Contact:

Ed Wilson/Don Drysdale

(916) 323-1886

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION ISSUES DRAFT EIR FOR OIL & GAS WELL STIMULATION TREATMENTS IN CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Conservation (DOC) today released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the use of oil and gas well stimulation treatments in California. This begins a 62-day public comment period, which will include six meetings around the state in February, with written comments submitted on or before March 16. The EIR is required by Senate Bill 4, and circulation of this draft is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. DOC has created regulations in support of SB 4 which will go into effect July 1, 2015.

“The objectives of the DEIR are to ensure that we have a good general understanding of the potential environmental impacts of well stimulation practices, and that the practice is conducted with environmental protection, public safety, transparency, science-based decision making, and strong oversight as priorities,” State Oil and Gas Supervisor Dr. Steven Bohlen said. “With the comment period now open, DOC can accept others’ viewpoints on this approach.

“Essentially, the DEIR finds that most of the significant environmental impacts identified can be reduced to the level of ‘less-than-significant,’ including potential impacts to groundwater and surface water, as well as the threat of seismic activity. With the regulations and the newly formulated proposed mitigation measures in place, DOGGR is confident well stimulation treatment activities can continue in California without the kind of environmental problems that have plagued well stimulation treatment in other states with lesser levels of environmental protection.”

The DEIR addresses all of the environmental issue areas required by CEQA, including air quality, geology and soils, noise and vibration, hydrology and water quality, and greenhouse gas emissions. It can be viewed here: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/SB4DEIR/Pages/SB4_DEIR_Home.aspx or at DOGGR’s six district offices. The addresses are available at http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/doggr_contacts.aspx.

In order to provide information to the public about what well stimulation treatments are, how they occur, and the potential for environmental impacts, the Draft EIR describes the process of hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and acid matrix stimulation as these processes apply to both existing and future oil and gas wells in the state.

Comments on the DEIR must be submitted in writing on or before March 16, 2015. Written comments may be sent by regular U.S. mail or other carrier to:

Ms. Adele Lagomarsino
Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resource
801 K Street, MS 18-00
Sacramento, CA 95814

Written comments submitted via e-mail communication are encouraged; however, please include your name and return address in the e-mail message. E-mail messages and attachments should be sent to:

SB4EIR@conservation.ca.gov.

DOC has scheduled six public meetings to receive verbal and written comments. All meetings run from 5-8 p.m.

- February 10, Ventura College Performing Arts Center, 4700 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, 93003
- February 11, Caltrans Building, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles 90012
- February 18, Elihu Harris State Building Auditorium, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, 94612
- February 19, Natural Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, 95814
- February 23, Kern County Administrative Center first floor board chambers, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, 93301
- February 25, National Steinbeck Center Salinas Room, One Main Street, Salinas, 93901.

###