



CalGEM Public Health Rulemaking Summary of Input from Instant Polling Opportunities

Beginning in February 2020, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) of the Department of Conservation held four workshops regarding public health regulations for oil and gas operations near sensitive receptors. Due to COVID-19, further in-person workshops were cancelled. To ensure that quality public comment was still received, CalGEM developed multiple pathways for the submission of comments including email, tele-town halls, online surveys, and instant polling.

The Instant Poll application, Meeting Sift, was open to the public for submissions from 7 am to 9 pm each day for five polling days, with a varying number of submissions each day.

- Wednesday, May 13, there were 191 submissions to the instant poll
- Thursday, May 21, there were 188 submissions to the instant poll
- Tuesday, June 2, there were 145 submissions to the instant poll
- Tuesday, June 9, there were 202 submissions to the instant poll
- Wednesday, June 10, there were a total of 39 submissions to the instant poll

For a total of 764 comments submitted through the instant polling system.

Participants in the poll responded to the question: “What would you like to see in the rule?” This report is a summary of the responses received.

- Regulations and solutions based on good science, peer-reviewed data
- Respect for economic and social benefits of oil and gas
- 2500-foot setbacks to promote health and safety (alt: 1600 or >2500 or 4000)
- No illegal takings of property
- No new development on parcels adjoining existing operations
- Prioritization of health over profits
- Apply CEQA and assess the cumulative health effects and climate impacts of each new well
- Protections for oil and gas workers (just transition)
- Ban fracking
- Rapid, just, phase-out of fossil fuel production

- Comprehensive CEQA review including full environmental impacts of increased importation of foreign crude and economic impacts to California
- Support vulnerable communities who bear environmental cost of wells
- Full documentation and disclosure of peer reviewed facts that prove existing oil and gas regulations are inadequate
- Adopt the most stringent rules possible
- Increased bonding levels
- Better monitoring of toxic gas emissions/fines
- No drilling through or near groundwater that supplies drinking water for our communities; no drilling in aquifers
- Prompt plugging and abandonment of wells funded by oil companies
- Clean up wells that were closed before strong regulations were imposed
- Cease permitting new wells
- Relocate the homes, hospitals, and schools
- End drilling in high fire hazard zones
- Active air and water monitoring, regular soil sampling
- Respect for the human right to clean, nontoxic air, and drinkable water
- Transparency and accountability
- Enhanced air filtration/HVAC systems in homes
- Analyze health and economic impacts of regulation, evaluate cost of gas
- No new steam injection of any type
- No duplication of California Fire Code setbacks
- Full disclosure of all materials pumped into the ground with all chemicals cleared of harmful impact before use
- Eliminate oil profits with tax policy
- Consideration of H₂S emissions from wells
- Measures to protect all living entities in the vicinity of a site
- All new drillers should have to post a bond equal to the cost of the removal of all leaked methane or equivalent CO₂ from the atmosphere
- Input from frontline communities most affected by pollution
- Protection for low income communities
- Mandatory inclusion of a percentage of renewable energies for O&G operations
- Deny permits for new fracking projects until the rulemaking is complete
- Plant buffer crops to reduce transport of pollutants
- Study the impact of supertankers/imported oil
- Exempt operators with 24/7 qualified onsite operators from any additional rules
- Create a CalGEM Health Advisory Group to weigh in on all new permit requests
- Environmental justice
- Affordable, reliable energy and good paying jobs
- Relax rules to keep energy cheap, safe, and in California

- Green energy jobs
- Tax oil royalties to cover all health impacts including any in water tables downstream of the property
- Counteract misinformation
- Transition to renewable energy
- Cap all wells within 1 km of residential
- Manage and remediate local seeps
- A new rule is not needed
- Implement best management practices such as continuous monitoring and highly qualified staff to safeguard communities
- Escrow account to cover “closing costs”
- All wells cease operation by or before 2030
- No nighttime drilling or operating with vehicles causing noise pollution
- Publish studies done by state agencies showing responsible production is safe
- Protect union jobs
- End CA GHG pollution per IPCC guidelines
- Account for the health effects of climate change when approving new permits
- Grandfather in current wells
- Ban injections above fracture gradient
- Moratorium on shipping by rail until proven safe
- Reinforce pipelines and railcars against corrosion from chemicals
- Require fossil fuel companies to fund pensions for all workers
- Help develop new, cleaner technologies
- Review peer-reviewed literature at least annually
- Educate the public on the benefits of fossil fuels

These workshops are part of a broad public outreach effort designed to gather information from the public regarding concerns with oil and gas operations and their impact on public health. CalGEM will review the comments and recommendations received as it develops a regulatory proposal to address public health concerns with oil and gas production.