

Candace: Welcome and thank you for joining today's California Department of Conservation Public Health Rulemaking. Before we begin, please, ensure you have opened the WebEx participant and chat panels by using the associated icons located at the bottom of your screen. Please, note that all audio connections are muted at this time. If you require technical assistance, please send a private chat message to the event producer. With that, I'll turn the content over to Uduak Ntuk. Please, go ahead.

Uduak: Good morning, everyone. This is Uduak Ntuk State Oil and Gas supervisor. We want to welcome you to join today's event, workshop on Public Health Rulemaking. I'm the supervisor responsible over California Geological Interview Management Division. We recently renamed, formerly we were DOGGR Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. Part of the renaming was also a new mission that included the explicit addition of public health into our mission, addressing climate change, and helping to meet the State's clean energy goals.

Last November, Governor Newsom announced a number of oil and gas initiatives, including the kickoff of this public health rulemaking effort and we are pre-rulemaking public outreach process. We initially had ten public workshops planned throughout the state to solicit input on a new rule. We were able to do the first four of ten prior to the covid-19 pandemic and shelter and place orders, both of the state in multiple county levels.

Today's online, virtual workshop is the first of three to replace the opportunity for people to give input and makeup for the workshops that we had to cancel. Part of this pre-rulemaking process is we're coming with an open slate. We want to hear from residents and community members throughout the state on their perspective on creating an oil and gas public health rule. Today's session is targeted geographically towards the Los Angeles area. We had three workshops that were planned that we were not able to do, but anyone from the state that will call in and participate today, we're primarily hoping we can hear from people from the greater Southern California area.

There will also be two more workshops in the coming weeks; one in Spanish, and another one in English. And those information or on our website. We will give more details at the end of today's session.

Just a little background on myself, I've been a supervisor here for the last six months. Formerly worked in local government and the City of Los Angeles and the City of Long Beach. My background is in chemical and petroleum engineering. Grew up in Long Beach. Still live in the area, always commuting to Sacramento, but I've been involved in the environment technology climate change for many years. Very interested to hear the different voices and opinions and input and ideas from everyone who will be participating in the call today. This is really important for us to hear directly from frontline communities, directly from residents throughout the state, and I want to say no idea is too small and no idea too big. And we're really looking for problem solutions and

recommendation for type of items to be considered as we come out with the goal of drafting or producing a draft rule that we hope to finalize, or at least get out on our website by the end of the summer.

With that, I just want to welcome everyone again, thank you for your participation, and I'm going to pass the baton to Sarah Rubin to talk about today's event. Sarah.

Sarah: Thank you, Uduak. Before I go into exactly how public comment is going to work today, Candace, can you give us a quick sense of about how many people are on, both through the WebEx and just by phone? So, we can get everyone a sense of how many people are participating so far.

Candace: Right now, we have approximately 200 people today.

Sarah: Fantastic. Well, thank you again, Uduak, and thank you everyone who is joining us. We are happy to have you with us. My name is Sara Rubin. I am the Department Outreach and Engagement Coordinator. I am a Meeting Facilitator and Mediator, and for those of you who have been with me at any other meeting, you know I really like snacks. This is a morning meeting and I have virtual bagels for you and for Keto people, or people who don't eat bread, I have nuts and dried fruit. And the coffee people, you have to get your own coffee, but I have tea, virtual tea for the tea people. And soda, for people who like soda in the morning.

We are very sorry we are not with you in person, but we are grateful that you joined today. And if I haven't had a chance to meet you in person, I hope we get to in the future. What's going to happen for public comment today, let's go to my next slide, for those of you who are watching through the WebEx, you'll be able to see this on the screen. For those of you who are just joining us by phone, I am going to explain it verbally. We had a registration link. We have over 250 people registered for today's virtual townhall, and even though these choices are too limiting, and we apologize for that, we have grouped folks, and we will be taking public comment in rounds. We will run through the following categories: communities, environmental, industry, labor, public health, folks who wanted to list themselves as other, and then we will be checking I with those of you who just phoned in but did not register.

If you have phoned in but you can't see us on the computer screen and you would like to, all you have to do is pop over to our website, conservation.ca.gov/publichealth, roll to the middle of the page, you'll see the links to register for this webinar, dial Virtual Townhall, and then you'll get the link to come in to the computer-based part of the meeting. Otherwise, we are happy to just have you in by phone.

What's going to be happening is that our moderator, Candace is going to be calling out the names of the seven folks we're going to hear at the beginning of

each one of these rounds. She'll have the names for the first six people, and then the seventh person who's just by phone, we'll just have a phone number for the person. About every 15 minutes you'll know the next round of seven people who are going to talk, and we'll just keep going through that cycle until we run out of time or we hypothetically run out of people who want to speak. Given the number of people who have said they want to speak, unfortunately it is unlikely we'll be able to get to all of you.

I'm sorry for that, but we do have four other ways that you can participate, and if you are seeing our screen, you'll see those. One is by email. We have a special CalGEM regulations at conservation.ca.gov email. The other is a SurveyMonkey, and the other is anonymous polling. We have four more instant calling dates. One is tomorrow. The instant call is open each time from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. We have one May 21st, May 30th, June 2nd, and June 9th. And then our fourth way is you can always send us a letter through the US Postal Service.

All right. And then Uduak already mentioned that we have two more virtual townhalls coming on the 28th of May in Spanish, and June 2nd at 1 p.m. And before we jump to the public comments, I just want to make one more plug and thank you for all the people who have helped us plan our in-person meetings but we couldn't go forward with. And I'm sure not going to be thanking everyone, but a couple of people who are popping into my head who did so much work in helping us find local locations. Our people, like Barb, Monica, Katie, and there're so many others. Thanks for everyone who's worked behind the scenes to help us plan those in-person meetings, and we're really sorry that we couldn't be with you --

Okay. We are going to move to public comments, and for those of you who, here we are, who came to any in-person meetings, you know we use this two-minute countdown clock. We're using the same clock and I'm about to turn over to Candace to give us our top seven people and this is the clock that people will see to know when their two minutes is over. I am having Candace cut off everyone's phone line at the top of the two minutes so we can get in as many people as possible. Let me apologize if we are cutting you off. Candace, are we ready for our first group?

Candace: Yes, we are. First, may I ask everyone who had planned to make a comment today to please, press pound two on their phone. Excellent. Thank you very much. Our first group of speakers will be Jimmy Abe, Jack Ight, Corey Burns, Sean Connor, Liz Amsden, and Wesley Schwank.

Sarah: Hey Candace. I got a text message saying a lot of people don't realize that they need to call in to hear the audio. Can we send some kind of chat message or something to everyone reminding them of that?

Candace: Yes, I can post a message in chat for them.

Sarah: Okay, thanks. When you have Jimmy's line opened up, I will put the clock.

Candace: Your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Jimmy: Hello everyone. I'm Jimmy Abe. I'm a proud Angelino, and I'm hear with STAND L.A. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today. Many years ago, I grew up here, and I went to school next to one of L. A's oil rigs. And I can still remember the pungent smell we had to deal with and endure daily. The negative health effects that result from this exposure have been scientifically proven. So, why is the health or our innocent kids still being jeopardized today? We need to have our state and local governments prioritize those people because there's no price that you can put on the health of our communities. Our government should put people before corporations and profits whenever possible.

With that said, we must have 2,500 feet between oil and gas operations and the places where people live, work, and learn. And we must prioritize an opportunity to plan a resilient and thriving environment for all Angelinos. Thank you for your time.

Candace: Thank you very much. Sarah, there's lot of movement on the phone line connections, so tracking people is proving to be a little bit more difficult than I had anticipated. If you don't mind, if I can read out the next two people and then have them raise their hands so that I can unmute them first.

Sarah: Sure.

Candace: Okay. Everyone --

Sarah: That's good. However, it works.

Candace: Okay. Everyone, I'm going to lower your hands at the moment. That does not mean you will not be able to speak. I just needed to clear the board. If Corey Burns and Sean Connor could press pound two on their phones, that would be very much appreciated. Sean Connor, your line is open.

Sean: Good morning.

Candace: Your phone may be muted.

Sean: Hello, good morning.

Candace: Yes, please, go ahead.

Sean: Yes. My name is Sean, and I'm the brother of an oil industry worker. It is imperative that we support these families within the industry. These are hard-working people that support families and in turn, support communities. These oil industry jobs have helped our children ger education, get health care, and more. Change happens, and we all have to move with the flow. However, it's not

just a matter of moving a well, or anything like that. The consequences of these decision are the jobs that these families depend on. Thank you for your time.

Candace: Will Jack Ight and Liz Amsden please, press pound two on your phones? Caller, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Liz: Hello?

Candace: Your phone may be... yes, please go ahead.

Jocelyn: Hi. My name is Jocelyn, of [0:16:46 inaudible] in Wilmington, and I'm just letting a lot of people know that I currently do live around three oil wells as well as the Marathon refinery, and there's still very pungent smell, honestly, and under Covid-19, we should all basically be worrying about additional health, but consistently having to deal with this issue going round, and honesty, we do need the 2500 ft buffer because if you all want to be safe, we should al have that around to be able to breathe and not have additional problems as well as the possibility of having Covid-19. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. The following two people, please press pound two: Wesley Swank and Matthew Gaines. Matthew Gaines, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Matthew: Hi, Matthew Gaines, Operating Engineers, local 12. One of the things that were concerned about is a good paying jobs. One of the previous callers stated we have members that contribute to the California economy and not enough can be said about a lot of other organizations at the moment. The way the world works, we still run on diesel fuel, jet fuel, and bunker fuel for shipping and for goods and freight movement. And until we have other things in place to take that away, I think we need to be cognizant of how much the goods movement will affect how people can purchase items. For us, it's a matter of families having good benefits and being able to feed themselves and house themselves. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. Would Ann Harvey and Rachel Glauser, please, press pound two on your phone? Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Robert: My name is Robert Smith, [0:19:48 inaudible] Allied Trades. And, again, it's about jobs and industry. This is an industry that's been here forever. It's raised people up and it's currently raising people up from underemployed jobs to real jobs. Think carefully of what we do. Thank you.

Candace: Rachel Glauser, your line is open.

Rachel: Good morning, Rachel Glauser here, on behalf of Current Citizens for Energy. We're local coalition that represents thousands of small business owners and nonprofits and taxpayer advocates, and we support a robust oil and gas industry. I want to thank you for allowing us to come on here and comment this

morning. Our community is really proud to produce the majority of our state's much needed oil and gas here, and even with that production are state still import two-thirds of our energy needs. Much of that coming from countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and they do not adhere to the high human rights labor environmental standards that California does abide by.

The fact remains that California's nearly 40 million residents demand enormous quantities of oil and gas. Still, as the other commenters said, our coalition believes that the oil and gas needed by Californians ought to be produced here, by Californians. We, over here in Kern County are a living breathing example of an all-of-the-above strategy for meeting our vast energy needs, and we actually produce the most renewable energy by far, so we're very proud of that. And we just ask that you support the people of California producing our energy here, in a world-class environment and human rights standards, and that all regulations be guided by facts.

Candace: Ann Harvey. Ann Harvey, your line is open.

Ann: Hi. I'm actually a retired family doctor in Oakland. I agree that a good job and benefits and [0:22:14 inaudible] are very important, but we have to consider what we're doing when we do those jobs and transitioning to a healthier economy that doesn't impact people the way we are with our fossil fuels. There are about 1.8 million people who live both within a mile of gas and oil wells, and in heavily impacted polluted areas, where over 90% of those are people of color. This impacts our poor and people of color communities by far more than others, and the state of California legislative commission did a study years ago that recommended at least a 2500 feet setback, and that should have been implemented promptly. It should --

Candace: Thanks very much. We're looking for Jack Ight and Suzanne Benetitus. Please, press pound two on your phone. Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Jack Hi. My name is Jack Ight, and I'm here on behalf of the SoCal 360 Climate Action, to urge Governor Gavin Newsom and CalGEM to take immediate action to protect communities and families who live, work, and worship and go to school near active oil wells. Over 5 million Californians lives within 1 mile of an oil and gas well, and of those, 1/3 live in areas with the highest level of pollution in the state. We have to begin our transition away from oil and gas to meet international targets for carbon reduction as well as protecting people living near drilling. A buffer 2500 feet between oil and gas operations in the places where people live, work, and learn is necessary to protect the health and safety of the communities, as well as to start healing our climate issues. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Female Speaker: Candace, can you hear me?

Candace: Yes, we can. Please, go ahead.

Female Speaker: Good morning. Our taxes pay for that CCST study that urges the precautionary principle. We must have that 2500-foot setback and keep the workers employed by retraining them in cleaning up and remediating Brown Fields and polluted Earth, which taxpayers end up having to pay. I urge that this new administration takes the 2500-foot setback and starts that either sun setting and retraining, or asking the people who produced the oil and earn the profits to support Total Health Care for everyone, not just their families, but everyone who lives within the 2500-foot distance. Thus, we can do a fair transition. And the fact is that the world's economists, from Joseph Stiglitz, it goes on and on, shows how oil no longer is in the top 10, it's living on the major subsidies, which, again, is our tax money and we need to honor the workers by retraining them and getting them into the myriad of green industries that are now opening. Thank you for your time.

Candace: Thanks very much. Would Tony Heim and Luis Andres Perez, please, press pound two on your phones? Your line is open.

Luis: Perfect. How are you guys? My name is Luis Perez, from UA582 Plumbers & Steamfitters. Our industry is needed more than ever as we're moving forward in Southern California. Our population density of only increasing, and every time our members go out to work, we're making sure that people have the ability to move forward and with it, continue the quality of life. Whether it's down to making sure that they have gas lines and being able to cut for their families, or at the very least, that they're able to get to work and able to transport their livelihood. As we're moving forward, we have to look forward not only to the situations that we're currently dealing, but understanding how we could positively and productively look out for our workers and look out for the livelihood of everyone. Because at the end of the day, whether we're going to the grocery store during coronavirus, we got to put gas in our car, we got to make sure there's food and water on the table for all of us. Thank you, guys.

Candace: Tony Heim, your line is open.

Tony: Thank you, good morning. I just want to urge that you look at the science, pay attention to what do studies say. I've been in the industry for 37 years, and we are not experiencing high incidence of people getting ill from working near oil wells. A lot of good jobs in the industry that would be lost, and I think you should be very careful about how you handle this decision. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. Would Steve Nixon and Jonathan Almen, please, press pound two on your phone? Mr. Nixon, your line is open.

Steve: Hi, thank you. My name is Steve Nixon. Number one, I'm proud to be an American. I work with Crimson Resource Management, [0:29:10 inaudible] in the small, independent oil producer. California producers are operating under the world's toughest safety and environmental rules and regulations. Crimson, along with other producers take pride in producing the safest and the cleanest

oil in the world. I've been in the industry for forty years, here in Kern County, I've worked for major companies, Shell Oil and Energy and currently working for small, independent producers. I have two kids, two grandkids, all been raised in Kern County. My family's lived in the community I work in. They breathe the same air and they drink the same water. I have personal interest in following the strictest rules and regulations in the world. Every day, every one of you on the phone needs to heat and cool your homes, you need to cook your food, and you need to get to where you need to go. Let's keep energy local. It's better for the environment and keeps quality jobs here in Kern County.

Candace: Thank you very much. Your line is open. Jonathan Almen, your line is open.

Jonathan: Hi, good morning. My name is Jonathan Almen, I'm the director of the Los Padres chapter of the Sierra Club, representing Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Good afternoon Mr. Ntuk, I want to congratulate you on having this hearing online. It's really challenging, but it's an opportunity. I just wanted to say that we support the 2500-foot setback between oil and gas operations and where people live, work, learn. That's obvious. That's what we should be doing because the health hazards are proven.

We also should be looking from other things that affect health hazards as well, including not drilling through drinking water aquifers. This is a big problem here in Santa Barbara County and Ventura. We have an obligation to protect people's drinking water sources. In fact, drilling through the Santa Maria groundwater basin affects 100,000 mostly Latino residents of Santa Maria. We also believe there should be no drilling in high hazard fire areas. No new cyclic steam drilling, no drilling that adds tanker truck traffic, and there should be a much greater incentive against idle wells. And we should have the prompt plugging of non-active wells. The permit should --

Candace: Thank you both very much. Would Emily Morales and Alicia Rivera, please, press pound two on your phones. Both Emily Morales and Alicia Rivera. Ms. River, your line is open.

Alicia: My name is Alicia Rivera. I'm with Communities for a Better Environment, CBE. I'm an organizer in Wilmington, which has the majority of oil drilling operations in all of Los Angeles. I am calling because people are living next to oil drilling operation only divided by a cinder wall. They listen to the heathen of the machinery when they're sleeping, when they're eating, when they are studying, when they are in bed, and when they are cooking. Their quality of life is so low that they are more prone to getting the virus in this pandemic because they are living on these so polluted conditions.

I have been there, even late at night, and the trucks are still idle and going in and out of the oil drilling sites. This should be remediated; these guidelines have to be updated so that there is no more permits for oil drilling operations unless they are 2500 feet. away from where people live, eat, sleep and study and play. I

see the children there playing in the street with all the fumes from the trucks and there are explosions, flaring's, and they come to do maintenance and put tall barricades. It's unbearable, the noise, and people can't live under these circumstances. It's time to put an end on oil and fossil fuels. We see in this pandemic that they --

Candace: Thank you very much. Would Emily Morales, if you are here, Theodore Cordova and Glen Dolph, please, pound two you on your phone. That's Emily Morales, Theodore Cordova and Glen Dolph. Your line is open. Glen Dolph, your line is open,

Glen: Okay. My name is Glen Dolph, I'm with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Kern County. We strongly disagree with any kind of blanket 2500 foot. setback. The impact on jobs, especially, it's going to be terrible. As far as quality of life goes, I have to say I live within about 1000 feet of not an oil well, but a refinery. And while it had some impact, it hasn't been of great impact in my life for 30 years. My viewpoint is this kind of blanket law is actually somewhat immoral. I've probably been what I would call an environmentalist since the 70's, and my view point on this kind of thing, just marching together... listening to The Talking Heads and marching down the road towards something that's overtly simplistic, without really looking at how everything touches upon each other and creates issues, we're just kicking cans down the road for our grandchildren to actually solve.

If you want to stop oil pollution or actually the problem's with burning oil, address burning oil. I dare anybody to touch anything next to them that isn't either using oil, has a part of oil in its construction, or needed oil to be produced, even without burning it or using it for energy. Thank you.

Candace Theodore Cordova, your line is open.

Theodore: Good morning everyone, I hope you and your loved ones are well. My name is Ted Cordova, and I am a resident of Los Angeles County. I'm a proud father to 1 son and one almost one-year-old baby girl, come tomorrow. I've lived in L.A. for over 20 years and born and raised here in Southern California. I'm fortunate to work for a great company that has several facilities throughout the Los Angeles area and the state. Our company is E&B Natural Resources. Now, more than ever, as we all face the Covid-19 crisis, our priority remains focused on the health and safety of our employees and how we can help communities where we live and operate. Petroleum-based products are critical in the fight against Covid-19 and for patients and frontline healthcare workers, including products like facemasks, doctor scrubs, gloves, hand sanitizer, protective eyewear, ventilators, medicines and other medical equipment that are absolutely necessary.

We've all witnessed over these last weeks and months how important it is to be able to source things and buy locally. We produce our products locally under the

strictest regulations on the planet. We believe that producing locally is in the best interest for the economy and the environment. It does not have to be one over the other. Together we can continue to show leadership in both areas. CalGEM's public forum today on health and safety is a good step forward. Continue the dialogue based on science on facts and show that together we are all capable of creating a sustainable energy future to resolve communities. Thank you.

Candace: Emily Morales, your line is open.

Emily: Hi. I'm a member of the Wilmington community and I'm here on behalf of Communities for a Better Environment to urge Governor Newsom and CalGEM to take immediate actions to protect communities and families who live, work, and worship and go to school near active oil wells and refineries across California. Communities [0:38:50 inaudible] and Wilmington communities are most [0:38:52 inaudible] impacted by oil drilling and [0:38:54 inaudible]. I live about 1000 ft. probably, from an oil drilling well and I'm always [0:39:01 inaudible] of my window because it smells horrible. And even when we're just trying to take a walk around our neighborhood, it smells bad. [0:39:15 inaudible] that once wasn't jeopardizing the [0:39:17 inaudible] as inactive oil wells, and in order to protect the well-being of the community and the future generations of these communities, we [0:39:26 inaudible] 2500 ft [0:39:28 inaudible] oil and gas [0:39:29 inaudible], and the places where people, live, work, and learn. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. Would Liz Amsden and Michael Zelniker, please, press pound two on your phone? Liz Amsden and Michael Zelniker. Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead, your line is open.

Justin: Hi, my name is Justin and I'm facing concerns right now with the climate change effects during this pandemic, and we have to know how can we address it from Governor Gavin Newsom about how can we address the climate change that's going to be needed, if we're going to need to pass the Green New Deal and fossil fuels industries, coalmines industries for years and generations to come.

Candace: Thank you very much. Would Susan Dombowski and Nancy Kelly, please, press pound two on your phone? I'm with Susan Dombowski and Nancy Kelly. Ms. Amsden, your line is open.

Liz: Yes. We've talked about quality of life, we've talked about pollution, which injures people. Right now, these people most likely to get Covid are more likely to die. Other complications follow kids all their lives. We know toxins from fracking, which companies refuse to identify as trade secrets are seeping into water and they affect brain development. When I first became involved with this issue in Los Angeles there was a photo of a woman in her kitchen, an apartment complex built after wells had been abandoned in the university park neighborhood but were opened for fracking.

She was cooking while labors and had that [0:42:14 inaudible] working 20 ft. from her window. The workers were safe; she and her family was not. Symptoms from fracking are worse from earlier types of drilling by many orders of magnitude. EPA inspectors were sickened at this site. We need to pass the cost of health and environmental impacts back to the companies, starting with making them post significant bonds that they will fold their companies and walk away leaving taxpayers to pick up the pieces. And there are far better jobs, more sustainable jobs in green energy than there ever were in oil and gas. Thank you very much.

Candace: Thank you very much. Would Greg Lilliston, Hannah Dragoo, Susan Domboski and Nancy Kelly, please, press pound two on your phone. That was Greg Lilliston, Hannah Dragoo, Susan Dombowski, and Nancy Kelly. Hi, your line is open.

Susan: Hi. This is Susan. When my husband and I first moved to Southern California we found a house in Long Beach that we really liked, until we discovered that there were several operating oil wells and storage tanks in a fenced lot two doors away. As we then looked elsewhere to live, we became aware that there're many oil wells operating in residential neighborhoods all over Long Beach. We found out that amazingly, California really has no requirements to provide health and safety zones around oil production sites in residential areas, or even near schools and hospitals, even though the California Council in Science and Technology, after analyzing health and environmental impacts of the state's drilling operations had recommended health and safety buffer zones to protect communities.

I've also spent time in Wilmington and nearby towns, but they were disproportionately large number of low-income residents of color living close to the many active oil and gas production sites there. People were continuously exposed to foul odors, noise pollution, and air toxics, which didn't help but threaten their health and safety. And any time there's an [0:44:42 inaudible] for love income communities of color who can't afford to live through their way, to be exposed to the health and safety risks of oil and gas developments. However, at this time, it is extremely environmentally unjust, during the global pandemic, just as breaking research says that communities with the history of exposure to poor air quality suffer much worse health outcomes from Covid-19. Obviously, California communities living near oil and gas activities have the history of toxic air exposure.

It's particularly important that these communities bear the burden of oil and gas pollution every day, be included in the regulatory process and that a substantial environmental justice program be put in place. It's also critical that CalGEM establish a minimum setback distance, ideally 2500 ft. between homes, schools, hospitals, and oil and gas production operations. Thank you.

Candace: Miss Dragoo, your line is open.

Hannah: Good morning. My name is Hannah Dragoo, and I am the daughter of an oil industry worker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I lived in Los Angeles County, and I just want to say that I hope you remember that each of these workers support the family and in turn, support those in our community. And these jobs helped my family pay for my college and pay for my health care, and I understand change is sometimes necessary, but understand that there are human consequences to these decisions, and these jobs, they support our families and we depend on them. Please keep that in mind. Thank you.

Candace: Hi, your line is open.

Greg: This is Greg Lillison, I work in the industry. and I just want to say if we're really focused on getting rid of oil and gas and we should try and focus on that technology first before we get rid of the wells, rather than sending that over overseas and having a higher global impact from extracting oil over there. I think there should be to be a better technology, technological solution we can work on together. Thank you.

Candace: Matthew D'Alessio and Richard Parks, please, press pound two on your phones. Your line is open.

Matthew: Hi my name is Dr. Matthew D'Alessio, and I'm a geology professor at Cal State University, North Ridge. I wanted to add to all comments that I think we do need mandatory setbacks from oil and gas infrastructure urban areas to protect from the chronic exposure, to emissions, but also the **[0:48:05 inaudible]** of health and safety hazards from blowouts. In terms of blowouts, a 2016 study of evacuation radii from more than two dozen different blowouts show that they **[0:48:14 inaudible]** evacuate range was from 660 ft. to more than 13,000 ft. And of course, in my region, the Aliso Canyon blowout required evacuations of over a full five-mile radius.

I appreciate that our oil and gas operators comply with some very strict safety regulations. But despite complying with all legal requirements, accidents like Aliso Canyon continue to happen in our neighborhoods. These facilities are simply not compatible with the public health and safety needs of our communities unless there's a safety barrier. I'm going to be submitting a written comment with some technical detail about how I think we should calculate that buffer distance. So, look forward to that. Thank you.

Richard: Good morning.

Candace: Go ahead, your line is open.

Richard: Good morning, my name is Richard Parks. I'm a longtime resident of South L.A and served as president of **[0:49:12 inaudible]** Community Partnership. A **[0:49:14 inaudible]** of regulatory agents have been empowered to police drill sites. However, they rarely collaborate. They frequently did not have the resources to be proactive. Often it is fence-line neighbors and frontline non-

profits who must bring violations to light. These agencies have even told us that we need to be their eyes, ears, and nose, that is, we need to be canaries in big oil coal mine. There is a clear pattern of environmental racism at work with the oil industry and regulators treating communities like ours as sacrifice zones.

Wealthier, whiter, west [0:49:50 inaudible] neighborhoods have long enjoyed protections that were not extended to drill sites in South L.A. neighborhoods. EIR radius maps showing where there will be loss of life, injuries, and/or damage to structures in the event of a catastrophic explosion or chemical release are luxuries of wealthy neighborhoods, like Hermosa Beach. There have been no EIR's for drill sites that are low-income, majority-minority community.

Finally, regulation has failed to protect our community from the industrial alliance between big oil and big chemical. ST-4 and STH [0:50:26 inaudible] do not disclose or regulate the vast majority of toxic chemicals that are brought onto urban drill sites. We watch tanker trucks make regular deliveries of [0:50:38 inaudible] DQ-86 with a warning label that reads danger, damages fertility and the unborn child. With a high incidence of miscarriages, we are left to mourn children we will never meet because of a regulatory system that prioritizes the wealth of big oil over the health of our families. Toxic oil extraction is fundamentally incompatible with residential neighborhoods and must be brought to an end. We urgently need a 2500 ft. buffer with a five-year phase out for existing operations. Thank you.

Candace: Valerie Kasinsky and Jose Crespo, please, press pound two on your phones. Valerie Kasinsky and Jose Crespo. Your line is open. Mr. Crespo, your phone may be muted, sir. Will Valerie Kasinsky, Ernesto Medrano, and Jill Johnston, please, press pound two on your phone? That was Valerie Kasinsky, Ernesto Medrano, and Jill Johnston. Hi, your line is open.

Jill: Hi, this is Dr. Jill Johnston, [0:52:33 inaudible] preventive medicine at the University of Southern California. I just wanted to share about the growing scientific literature that demonstrates adverse exposure and health impact associated with petroleum extraction. We know that a single drill site can operate for decades, and that the extraction process produces multiple health hazard air pollutants, like benzene, [0:52:56 inaudible], formaldehyde and hydrogen sulfide. Many of these compounds are known to be toxic to human health, carcinogenic, and impact respiratory health. These chemicals can migrate off site, [0:53:08 inaudible] emissions, spills, leaks, or accidents.

And despite the diversity of extraction techniques we see across the country, studies have consistently identified drilling activities as significantly associated with adverse birth outcomes. We see this in California, Pennsylvania, Colorado Texas, and Oklahoma. And while the explosion measurements can vary across the different epidemiological studies, we see adverse perinatal effects anywhere from people living a half mile to three miles away from these drill activities.

Furthermore, some recent health studies have also reported symptoms of throat and nasal irritation, eye burning, sinus problems, headaches, skin problems, fatigue, loss of smell, cough, nose bleeds, and psychological stress. This is both among the workers as well as the communities living nearby. We also see increased risk factors for cardiovascular disease in people living near high intensity of oil and gas drilling activities. We also see impacts of neurological symptoms, kidney damage and thyroid problem. Stress, including social and economic stress can make these health conditions worse.

So, it's important that we leverage this scientific information and data as we think about policies to protect communities and the future from pollution as well as climate change. Thank you.

Candace: Mr. Crespo.

José: Hi. I'm an oil field worker in Los Angeles, but I'm also an environmentalist, **[0:54:41 inaudible]** a homeowner and my backyard neighbor is **[0:54:43 inaudible]**. I've been hearing a lot of concerns about the safety of living near an oil field and I'm here to tell you that it's possible to do the jobs right and it's possible for the industry and regulators to work together to support business and **[0:54:54 inaudible]**. These things matter most to us. I promise you; we care our health and lives just as much as anyone else. And I wouldn't be working in this industry if I felt it a threat. California has **[0:55:05 inaudible]**, and they work. I know they work because I see it first-hand at work and at home.

The proposed **[0:55:11 inaudible]** are based on junk science that has not been thoroughly **[0:55:14 inaudible]**. And the implication that **[0:55:16 inaudible]** information will be catastrophic for the **[0:55:20 inaudible]** high paying jobs directly supported by the industry. Why are we gambling with our economy, tax dollars and thousands of families and the minorities when the industry has been doing independent third-party exposure surveys for years and has not found these end results. There's tons of data out there that contradict **[0:55:37 inaudible]** arbitrary. And if they can choose what data they use to **[0:55:42 inaudible]**. How about we look at the entire data landscape and look for the truth instead of ideologies. We live in the same communities we work in. We breathe the same air; we drink the same water and so do our families. We have a vested interest of doing our jobs well.

Look, I get that all these people don't like that they get smells from **[0:56:00 inaudible]** fields. The proposed answer of setback is like going after a fly with a **[0:56:03 inaudible]**. It's based on bad science. **[0:56:05 inaudible]** of data **[0:56:07 inaudible]**, but proposals like this undermine and erode cooperation. I wasn't joking when I said I was an environmentalist. **[0:56:16 inaudible]** left the car charging right now. Let's work together, let's look at all the data, not just one set. Let's try to make all **[0:56:27 inaudible]**

Candace: Thank you. Paula Andrea Torrado Plazas, your line is open.

Paula: Thank you. Good morning. My name is Paula Torrado, and [0:56:49 inaudible] for social responsibility as the Air and Toxics Policy Analyst. I've been working with community members in South Central Los Angeles to build our capacity to understand pollution burning, via our South-Central Los Angeles [0:57:00 inaudible] project in our Air Quality Academy.

Over the last year, we have collected community air quality data throughout South Central Los Angeles communities, and near the Jefferson and Murphy Oil sites in collaborations with residents and allies. Based on the community data collected [0:57:15 inaudible] regulatory agencies data, and the combined [0:57:18 inaudible] experiences of South-Central Los Angeles community of residents, we have been able to continue to corroborate that air pollution emitted by oil drilling operations continues to threaten both the health of community residents and their quality of life. Our community project continues to demonstrate that communities living next to incompatible land uses, such as oil operations, continue to bring toxic air, and while air monitoring is essential, real actions to eliminate health and safety threats from oil operations is needed direly, such as a 2500 ft. buffer distance.

For decades, low income communities living in Los Angeles have faced and continue to face an overabundance of hidden health threats in the neighborhoods for oil and gas operations placed right next in their backyards. Recent community health surveys near oil operation sites have reported symptoms of severe fatigue, cough, nose bleeds, and psychological stress. Communities that have been long overburdened by health threats of toxic air coming from oil operations that have a health profile of higher asthma rates and respiratory illnesses are also more susceptible to Covid-19, which continues to further deepen health [0:58:27 inaudible] and inequality.

Communities affected by oil drilling need Governor Gavin Newsome and CalGEM to step up in prioritizing community health and safety by supporting the 2500 ft. burden distance and a just transition that support a healthy, resilient, and thriving future for South Central Los Angeles, with healthy supporting jobs for workers and clean air for our communities. Thank you.

Candace: Your line is open.

Carlos: My name is Carlos Torres. I like the clean air and peace because I think it's good. I moved 25 years ago by the 405 Freeway. When we done with this one, maybe we can shut down the 405 Freeway and make that move too. Bye.

Candace: Guadalupe Rivas. Your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Guadalupe: Hola, buenos días. Mi nombre es Guadalupe arcade Rivas, de la organización de Scope, y estoy aquí como un miembro de la comunidad del sur de Los Ángeles. Soy embajador de la calidad del aire del Proyecto SCLA Push. Estoy aquí para instar al gobernador Gavin Newsom y también a que tomen medidas inmediatas

para proteger a las comunidades y familias que viven, trabajan, adoran, y van a la escuela cerca de los pozos de petróleo y las refinerías activas en California. Mas de cinco millones de Californianos viven a una milla de un pozo de petróleo o gas, y de ellos, un tercio vive en áreas con los niveles más altos de contaminación en el estado. En mi comunidad del sur centro de Los Ángeles, las comunidades viven con torres de perforación de petróleo en sus patios traseros y cerca de escuelas, parques infantiles, amenazando el aire que respiramos, los alimentos que comemos y el agua que bebemos.

Como experiencia personal, aquí en la ciudad de Los Ángeles, donde yo vivo, por la calle Arlington, hay unos pozos de petróleo cerca de una escuela y emana un olor fuerte de contaminación, y los niños son los más afectados. Todos estamos aquí porque nos importa lo mismo; el bienestar de nuestras familias hoy y en el futuro. Es necesario amortiguar 2500 pies entre las operaciones de petróleo y gas y los lugares donde viven, trabajan, y aprenden las personas para proteger la salud y la seguridad de nuestras comunidades. Gracias.

Candace: Thank you. Would Jim Elrod and Daryl Gail, please, press pound two on your phones. That's Jim Elrod and Daryl Gail. Your line is open.

Jim: Morning. My name is Jim Elrod. I'm the business manager, financial secretary of IBEW Local 428 in Kern County, representing 780 members that do electrical work in the Kern County area. about a third of those do work in the oil industry. Kern County is about 100 miles north of Los Angeles. We are really the Mecca of the oil extraction in California, so we've been involved in it for many, many, years. I think on the behalf of the 780 members we are strongly opposed to AB-345.

The governor has a regulatory process... rules for health and safety around oil and gas extraction facilities. The regulatory process established by the administration will not only specify counter setbacks but also other potential positive measures driven by the best available science and data. Governor Newsom has already proven during the pandemic of Covid-19 that he's able to take scientific data and public opinion from the counties on reopening and be able to juggle both of those successfully, to do what's best for the public and for Californians in general.

I think we ought to allow this process that he has going now to determine what is the best for the public and the counties individually and let that process play out with the experts and the scientists all sitting at the table, coming up with the best evidence that they can to be able to make this a safe a process as possible.

So, on behalf of the representatives 428, I, again, oppose AB-345. Thank you.

Candace: Daryl Gail, Ashley Hernandez, and Ray Watson, please, press pound two on your phone. That's Daryl Gail, Ashley Hernandez, and Ray Watson. Your line is open. Ms. Hernandez, your line is open.

Ashley

Hi. My name is Ashley Hernandez. I'm an organizer with Communities for a Better Environment, but most importantly, I identify as a resident in Wilmington, California. I actually live 600 ft. from one of the largest drill sites in the state of California, and I can tell you that from growing up here as a child, I've seen these impacts, I've seen these trends, and I've been able to connect the dots since I was in grade school up until now that I've been organizing with powerful, courageous youth and frontline residents in Wilmington, fighting for our communities' rights for environmental justice.

I strongly believe we need a 2500 ft. setback. My community and my life experience and health impact is proof that 600 is not enough and it will never be enough. We need to make sure that we keep petroleum and oil in the ground and we need to make sure we protect workers and fight for workers to have job transitions out of the fossil fuel economy and that we start moving into a generative one that's not dependent on fossil fuels and that's not leading us on a reliance that's killing frontline residents and it's putting frontline residents at the frontline of these impacts.

So, I really want to make sure that we are able to not try to fight the science, but really embrace what research has shown us, embrace what's [1:05:59 inaudible] residents that are part of this research and they are telling us. And that is that we need to move away from these fossil fuel industries and we deserve a first step to be at 2500 setback, and we deserve for these industries to support their workers in moving out of these industries. Thank you so much.

Candace:

Your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Ray:

Thank CalGEM for the opportunity to have my voice heard. It's a citizen – a Californian, an environmentalist, and a 40-year member of the only gas workforce. My name Ray Watson and I'm proud to be part of an industry that has powered my state safely, responsibly, and with the highest standards of environmental stewardship for these last 40 years, while feeding my family and paying my taxes. My children are California born and raised, and that proud tradition continues with my granddaughter.

Extremists who seek the immediate halt of oil and gas production in California hold the position that is either ignorant or hypocritical. Why do I say this? Californians currently enjoy a lifestyle that demands 1.5 million barrels of oil every day. You can argue that our lifestyle should not require this, but the fact remains that is where we are. And a path to a lower need for energy is a long one that must be navigated carefully and cooperatively. Due to a hostile business climate the California oil and gas industry currently supplies less than a third of California's needs. The balance of that demand, over one million barrels of oil a day is imported by supertanker from foreign countries that do not have the same high regulatory and environmental standards or values, the basic human rights that we, as Americans, are committed to.

Stopping all California oil and gas production tomorrow will not change this demand. If today's California energy appetite is not satisfied with oil and gas produced in California, imports of foreign oil will simply increase to fill the void. This is a negative impact of the global carbon footprint. An interim solution to this negative impact is to increase California oil and gas production that is accomplished with the safest, most environmentally responsible standards in the world and renovating the need for imported oil that's brought to the port of Los Angeles every day in risky-foreign supertankers that are pouring thousands and thousands of pollutants into our air.

With CalGEM's help we can assure a cleaner world while powering California with responsibly produced oil as we all continue to work toward an economy that becomes increasingly compatible with renewable energy. This approach will help ensure that the oil and gas required for the foreseeable future to support the world's quest for ever-improving quality of life is produced in the most environmentally and sociable responsible manner possible. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. Hold on just one moment, please. If anyone is on the line who did not pre-register, but you would like to make a public comment, please, press pound two on your phone. We will not be able to get through all of them at this time; we're going to go back to the registration list after I'll take three of the unregistered individuals at this time. Hi. Please, go ahead. Your line is unmuted.

Theresa: Hello! Is my line unmuted? Hi, my name is Theresa Brady. I did actually pre-register, but I wasn't called on. I'm pre-registered with my cell phone number, so you're probably not recognizing my number. This is my home number and it says Troy Construction. My name is Theresa Brady, and my roommate does a little bit of local construction. I definitely support AB-345, the 2500 setback from oil wells for people who live near them, because the science tells us that it is a health risk to live near them.

Many of the people who speak on behalf of the oil industry try to twist that and say there is no science that says it's unsafe to live near it. But I was looking it up online while I was waiting for my turn to talk, and I found several sources that point out that it is toxic to work on the clean-up, that the oil industry has known it's toxic for 20 years and they've also known they've been causing climate change for many, many, years and have not addressed that as well. Their promises that they will do better are not enough. We need the setback now, AB-345, we need it because there are many carcinogenic pollutants in the air.

It does also pollute the water, the people who live near them and/or who are getting our water from those water tables as has been said. There can be a good jobs provided by solar and wind and other renewables. The cost of extraction of fossil fuels is about equal to the production of clean energy. Now, at this point, this industry is getting subsidized by the federal government and if those subsidies was shifted to the clean energy, they could help transition those people who are working in the oil industry to good jobs and a renewable energy.

Candace: Your line is open. Pleas, go ahead.

Jessica: This is me? Sorry. I just realized. Hi, my name is Jessica Craven. I am a Los Angeles resident, newly elected member of the California Democratic Party of Los Angeles County committee. I am a mom of a 10-year-old daughter, PTA president, yada-yada, very involved in activism. I'm speaking in support of the 2500-foot buffer zone.

I'm dismayed to hear so many people coming on and making it sound as if it is a choice between people's jobs and saving the health of people who live in these communities and all of us who don't want to breathe toxic, polluted, air. I don't think it should be framed that way. I think that, as someone had said, there are no jobs on a dead planet. We, of course, want to preserve jobs; that is first and foremost, that everybody should be able to feed their families by working. But to pretend that jobs in energy are the jobs that people are going to still have going forward, is just denying reality completely.

I just happened to get an email about CalSTRS and their fossil fuel investment. They've lost \$1.63 billion on fossil fuel stocks in July of 2019, and that's because fossil fuels are going away. They're going away, we can argue that all the technology should be in place before they go away, or whatever we want to argue, but they're going away because they're destroying our planet. And if they don't go away, we don't have a future. It's that simple. I recognize that everybody who's got a kid, who is an oil or gas worker wants to be able to feed their family. We all want the same thing, which is a safe future for our kids and for our kids to be able to live in a place where they're not going to get cancer from breathing the air, where there isn't going to be some huge explosion which makes everybody have to leave their houses. We all want the same thing.

I would just argue that this setback is the first of a lot of things are going to have to change as we transition to a sustainable future. Was that my time? I would just say I --

Candace: Hi. Your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Marsha: Hi, my name is Marsha Hanscom, I'm a Sierra Club leader and I'm also a community leader in Playa del Rey on the Los Angeles coast. I was a **[1:14:32 inaudible]** shop steward 25 years ago in Long Beach, so I'm very, very sympathetic to the job issue, and I thought you asked the host of this call, who said at the beginning that no idea is too big, that he make strong recommendations to the Governor to put together an emergency task force for a just transition for these workers in the oil and gas industry. An emergency task force that would include people from all walks of life so that we can put the best heads together to figure out how we're going to make this transition. And it's an emergency. We are in a climate emergency.

In the meantime, I have some ideas for some places where some of these folks could be working. We have dozens and dozens of leaking gas and oil wells in the place of the oil fields where So CalGas currently has these gas storage fields that the CCS chief said either was commissioned by legislature, said was the most dangerous field in the state. It needs to be shut down and we need to have some wells cleaned up that are leaking. So, we could be getting some workers doing that work while this emergency [1:15:49 inaudible] some other work. In the meantime, a 2500 ft. setback is the minimum we should have for existing wells and any new wells. Actually, we shouldn't even be drilling new wells; we are in a climate emergency. Thank you.

Candace: All right, we are going to go ack to the registered list. I'm going to lower your hands, but please, do not hang up. We will be getting back to unregistered individuals very soon. Would Ray Watson, Silvia Betancourt, and Michael Zelnicker, please, press pound two on your phone. That's Ray Watson, Silvia Betancourt, and Michael Zelniker. Okay, would Jimmy Schloss, Luis Miramontes, and Margot Eifert, please, press pound two on your phone. Your line is open. Please, go ahead Mr. Schloss.

Jimmy: Hi. My name is Jimmy Schloss, I'm a registered engineer and geologist here in California. I want to address some facts. Long-term cancer studies have been done specifically for oil and gas industry workers that have taken decades to complete. These studies have shown that cancer rates among oil and gas workers who spend their entire career working in the field, next to wells and facilities do not have a statistically higher rate of cancer among other groups of people, meaning that their cancer occurrences are no different than anybody else. Oil and gas industry is also one of the safest Industries to work in the United States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks occupational injuries and illnesses for all industries, and show that oil and gas is far below the national average for occurrences and is safer than occupations such as real estate, education, healthcare, working at a golf course, among others.

The scientific studies on the negative health effects related to the proximity of oil and gas wells have applied none scientific method to reach flawed conclusions. Credible scientific studies on carcinogens in the environment take years to decades to complete. These studies are controlled and will follow the same group of people or the same group of animals over time and evaluate whether or not cancer occurrences, should occur, are statistically significant. The studies cited in this phone call have not been able to tie negative human health effects such as cancer as to oil and gas wells because they rely on personal surveys and self-certification with individuals who have cancer. And they also address how long an individual has lived there, what their health habits are, and other factors such as proximity of the highways and refineries. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Candace: Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Female Speaker: Hello, I'm calling from a city a few miles east of Downtown L.A. which has many reasons for the new rules to be made both proactive and reactive. To prevent health problems in the future the law needs to stop a proposed luxury condo project at the top of an over 100-year-old active oil field full of still active and abandoned wells with a gas line similar to the one in Aliso Canyon running underneath it. We need to find a way to do that. And there should be a way to have cities and other entities pay to make up for lack of any regulations in the past which led to deaths of many people who had oil wells in their backyards, who died of cancer, and then other people who are still negatively affected by living near oil and gas wells and pipelines, etcetera.

And I just wanted to say that since these are public comments and we don't need to have to be professionals, it should be okay to send in a few at a time via email or UPS. I want to know if it is or if you're allowed to answer questions, but those are the things I really appreciate this opportunity to express them, okay. I don't know if I went over 120 words, so if it's less than two minutes I really want to have a response, if there's a possible way to get a response to those kind of the question I asked about, okay to send in any comments.

Sarah: Hi. This is Sarah Rubin, the meeting facilitator. You are welcome, we really encourage you to send in an email and you are welcome to send in as many emails, with as many different comments as you like, or you can send us through the mail. We also have a SurveyMonkey, and you can find all of that on our website. Thanks for asking and thanks for calling in.

Female Speaker: You're welcome. Thank you very much.

Candace: Silvia Betancourt, your line is open. Hi, please make sure your phone isn't set to mute.

Silvia: Hello, this is Silvia Betancourt, and I am here in support of the 2500-foot setback. I work with the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, which is based at Long Beach Miller Children's & Women's Hospital. We work primarily with children whose asthma is out of control, and in particular in the Wilmington, Long Beach, and San Pedro areas. If you know there are many, many, exposures there, but in particular, and thinking about petroleum extraction, this is a toxin and a hazard for children, in particular whose lungs are still developing, but for children who have asthma, which is a chronic illness. That exposure exacerbates there [1:22:45 inaudible]. And when a child has uncontrolled asthma and they're in the ER or the hospital, they're missing days from school and their parents are also missing work. It's extremely important that we consider our children's health and set the 2500 feet setback. Thanks for your time.

Candace: Your line is open.

Male Speaker: Thank you very much. Just regarding the 2500-foot buffer issue, I would truly hope that any decisions would be based on sound science. Unfortunately, we have an internet today that is filled with the pseudoscience and position-based fact-finding that supports a particular position or another, and that's just an unfortunate part of our world that we live in today that is so polarized and it's a crying shame. But I urge those in decision-making position to go out of your way to try to discern the basis of the support information that you're reading. Because there's a bunch of it out there from what I've researched, there's a huge preponderance of the evidence in support of these type of things that are all traceable back to one or two what I would call college term papers. They got 147 references and all they're doing is parroting the previous periodical that they dug out from the deep internet.

So, that having been said I would urge you, please, think about how your decisions are based and on what kind of science. When we talk about care of kids, my gosh, we all want our kids to be healthy and prosperous. When we start talking about just keeping it in the ground, how do we provide hospital care? You can't operate hospitals without the support of the infrastructure that comes, at least in part right now, from fossil fuels. That having being said, let's look for a way through this. Let's not blow our leg off in the process and make things even worse as we are tending to do in certain cases this very time in our history. We can work together and make this happen. Let's do it as safely as possible. The safest way is for us, as Americans, to do it ourselves --

Candace: Thank you. Please, go ahead, your line is unmuted. Hi, your line is open. WE can't hear you very well. I'm going to re-mute your line. If you can get closer to your phone, I will come back to you. Hi, your line is open. Please, make you're your line isn't set to mute. Hi, your line is open. Okay, we will put your line back on mute and we'll get back to you. Is this Luis Miramontes?

Luis: Yes.

Candace: Your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Luis: Hello, my name is Luis Miramontes, of International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, I'm the business manager. I strongly oppose AB-354 given the current situation that we have at hand with millions of Americans unemployed in California and worldwide. We definitely need these jobs in our economy right now. Given that said this is how our members feed their families, given the current situation with hard science. We do take all safety and health precautions, whether if it's the union labor and the owners of these refineries with our own members and all the surrounding areas here in Southern California, but we strongly oppose this. That being said I want to appreciate everybody for the time. Thank you.

Candace: Thank you very much. Would Patricia Flaherty and Christian Guzman, please, press pound two on your phone? That's Patricia Flaherty and Christian Guzman. Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Christian: Is this for Patricia or Christian?

Candace: This is for Christian.

Christian: Okay. Hi, my name is Christian Guzman. I'm a resident of Wilmington, former Central San Pedro neighbor, council member and member of Communities for a Better Environment. I ride my bicycle a lot in Wilmington and other areas of City 15 and Carson as well, and I see these oil wells near my house and in the neighborhood. And I find it to be very inconsistent with the homes that are around here and the schools, and they said they don't look good and the chemicals they release don't smell good, especially when the workers come extract the chemicals. The smell is increased and it's not fun at all. I don't think it's consistent with moving forward to a sustainable and renewable future. There're going to be plenty of jobs that are going to be sustainable and renewable, which will include mitigating all these sites. That's plenty of jobs. So, I strongly support a 2500 ft. safety buffer and I think we should do it immediately. Thank you.

Candace: Thank you very much. Would Patricia Flaherty and Joaquin Santos, please, press pound two on your phone. That's Patricia Flaherty and Joaquin Santos. Hi, your line is open.

Joaquin: Good morning. My name is Joaquin Santos and I'm president of Laborers Local Union number 1309. I'm calling as a stakeholder. We represent hundreds of working men and women in the oil and gas industry. This industry has a lot of hard-working members and their families to enjoy good benefits, medical benefits, good wages, pensions. Our members have been on the oil and gas industry for jobs to pay their rents, mortgages, pay their bills, make their car payments, send their kids to college. Through the rule making process our members jobs now and, in the future, must weigh in, must be weighed in, and be reassured that those jobs will continue without having a negative impact on their livelihoods for this industry at the results of this rule making process. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. Would Blanca Lucille and Christie Monge, I apologize for mispronouncing your names, would Blanca Lucille and Christie Monge, please, press pound two on your phone. Hi, your line is open.

Christie: Hi, my name is Christie Monge, and I have worked in the oil and gas industry for over eight years at CRC. I'm just one of thousands of essential oil and natural gas workers who live in the very community where we work. Along the OC and L.A. coast wireless wearing [1:32:41 inaudible] from crowded supertankers awaiting entry into the port paints a clear picture of our reliance on foreign oil and

constant coastal odors from [1:32:49 inaudible] are evidence of a significant environmental impact of transporting oil into California. We have the resources to produce locally and support our communities at a very important time, for we need jobs and a strong economy. We also know that oil produced locally is better for the environment due to strict environmental regulations and holds a far better human rights ranking than the foreign sources the supply most of California's imported oil.

There's a lot of misinformation about my industry, and many people are not aware of the complex rules and regulations administered by over 25 agencies to ensure safety and environmental protection. Even above regulatory requirements, facilities like mine implement proactive engineering and safety management best practices designed and maintained for their communities and mine. I know that CalGEM knew this already but from what I've heard in previous meetings, the public do not. It is very concerning that activists are strongly pushing messaging that it's not supported by facts or science relevant to California and are trying to need their own agenda forward through creating fearful community experience. Expanding setbacks will not impact community health and if implemented, will have reciprocal effects which will result in no-build zones, impacting affordability and worsening the housing crisis.

Regulations without any measurable benefit unnecessarily impose additional costs and jobs and livelihoods just like mine. I asked that CalGEM ensure its rule making is informed by relevant technical data and scientific studies, and consideration is given to the impact of the policies in our energy supplies and affordability, which absolutely affects public health. Thank you.

Candace: Blanca Lucille, your line is open.

Blanca: Mi nombre es Blanca. Estoy aquí como miembro de la comunidad del sur central de Los Ángeles y soy embajador de la calidad del aire del proyecto SCLA Push. Estoy aquí para decir para decirle al gobernador Gavin Newsom, en mi comunidad del sur central Los Ángeles, las comunidades y viven en torres de perforaciones de petróleo en sus patios traseros y parques infantiles, amenazando el aire que respiramos, los alimentos que comemos, y el agua que bebemos. Todos estamos aquí porque nos importa lo mismo; el bienestar de nuestras familias hoy y en el futuro. La perforación del petróleo en nuestras comunidades y su contaminación del aire, el agua, amenaza todo eso.

Es necesario un amortiguador de 2500 ft. Entre las operaciones de petróleo y gas y los lugares donde viven, trabajan, aprenden las personas para protegerse la salud y la seguridad de nuestras comunidades. Necesitamos terminar con las perforaciones petroleras, dar prioridad a la salud y seguridad de la comunidad. Debemos planificar una transición justa para crear un futuro económico resiliente y próspero para el sur central de Los Ángeles, como empleos saludables para los trabajadores, y el aire limpio en nuestras comunidades del sur centro de Los Ángeles. Muchas gracias.

Candace: Thank you. Once again, if you did not register in advance for today's meeting, please, press pound two on your phone. We will take four comments from people who did not preregister. Hi, your line is unmuted. Please, go ahead.

Brian: Hello, this is Brian Buchanan. I grew up in the L.A. Basin, went to the University of Long Beach State, and I realized that many of the oil wells in the L.A. Basin are fairly old. 1910, vintage site wells. When we talk about implementing 2500 ft shutdowns, are we going to tear down the homes and tear down the roads that was built after those wells were built? It's a very simple question. If you know there's a freeway and you buy a house next to it, don't be surprised that there's noise. If you don't like living next to an oil well, why did you buy next to it? Thank you for your time.

Candace: Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Irv: Hello?

Candace: Yes, please, go ahead.

Irv: My name is Dr. Irv Beaman, I'm a retired psychologist in Santa Ynez Valley as well as a management consultant on two continents. Spent 20 years in China and observed an incredible economic growth and rising wages, but also the lack of attention to pollution in that environment. And people were dying of cancer there and people were living until their 80s and their 90s when we arrived in '93. When we left in 2013, our staff's parents were dying in their 50s and 60s of cancer. The scientific determination of the causes of cancer is a very difficult proposition.

And I'm looking at your mission to balance today's needs with tomorrow's challenges and fostering intelligent sustainable and efficient use of California's energy, land and mineral resources. Yet, your vision is a safe sustainable environment for all Californians. The challenge here is, obviously, jobs versus safety. And that's a very difficult challenge. The one thing I want to ask you to do is consider that drilling through poseable aquifers is an enormously dangerous proposition and seismically active state. When you're considering your vision, safety is a paramount concern. Of course, jobs are important. But safety is important as well, paramount.

If you think about that and you reflect on that and you reflect on that and what your mission is and your vision, you'll come to the right decision. Thank you.

Candace: Hi, your line is unmuted. Please, go ahead.

Veronica: Hi. Thanks very much for giving me the opportunity to comment. My name is Veronica Wilson. I'm the granddaughter of an oil worker who worked in Long Beach, and I'm not a resident of Los Angeles. Today, we're experiencing a health crisis because of a deadly respiratory disease; Covid-19, as you know. And we know the impact of this deadly disease are disproportionately affecting people

living in areas of higher toxic air pollution. And we know that neighborhood oil drilling disproportionately affects low-income communities of color. Over 5 million California living within a mile of an active well are exposed to carcinogenic chemicals, asthma attacks, emissions, and the threat of catastrophic accidents or explosions.

Oil Workers are eight times more likely to die on the job than any other worker. Workers in communities need support in a transition away from fossil fuels. Working together, we need a plan for alternatives that ensure our health, safety, and livelihoods. Thank you for the time.

Candace: Thank you. We will be taking one more question at this time from someone who did not preregister. Please, go ahead. Your line is open.

Ryan: Hi. my name is Ryan O'Neal. I'm a professional geologist. I work in L.A. I happen to work in the oil industry, but I want to provide a little bit of a different perspective here. Fossil fuel has Lifted the world out of poverty. That's a fact. But now we face a challenge. We understand that over 100 years of emissions is having a negative impact on the planet. Right before I joined the meeting, I was actually in a meeting for a carbon capture and sequestration, and state of California has been a great job in incentivizing companies to sequester carbon dioxide. And in doing so they made it not only possible but financially feasible for private oil and gas companies to be part of the solution.

And we want to be part of the solution. I want to be part of the solution. With the 2500 ft. setback I could potentially lose my job and you no longer have a private company paying for a subsurface expert to be part of the solution. We want to be part of the solution together, we want to work together, we want to make decisions based on sound science, logic, reason. We want the same things. But it's important moving forward that we work together and not sit on one side or the other, but are all part of the solution. Thank you.

Candace: Thank you. We will be returning to people who did not register but still like to make a public comment. I am going to lower your hands at this time. Please, do not hang up. We will be going back to non-registered individuals in just a moment. At this time though I would like Nelson Ayala and Monica Embry to please press pound two on their phone. Nelson Ayala and Monica Embry. Monica Embry, your line is open.

Monica: Hi. My name is Monica Embry and on behalf of the Sierra Club's 500,000 members in California I'm here to say and express our support for the 2500 ft. human health and safety buffer. We know the impacts of oil drilling on our health and well-being. It causes everything from asthma to cancer, premature death, birth defects, lung disease, heart disease. With the current coronavirus crisis, this issue is even raised to a further level. Researchers from Harvard has shown the correlation between higher levels of exposure to toxic emissions leading to a higher likelihood of death from Covid-19.

We also know that we do want to work together with workers in the oil industry, to be part of the solution to the just transition and/or manage decline in California. We know that it's corporate CEOs and executives of oil companies who continue to reap record profits, and leave the workers and communities out. We want to make sure that with the current downturn and in oil industry prices, those workers who are currently laid off do get back to work helping clean up the dirty industry that has been polluting our neighborhoods and communities for far too long. There are thousands of abandoned and idle wells across our state that need proper remediation. And the experts who currently work in the oil and gas industry should be put to work helping to clean up this toxic mess and make sure that all of our communities are able to breathe cleaner air.

We know that it's also important now just for our public health and safety because of air, water, and land pollution, but also because of the climate crisis. And as California continues to lead on lowering our demand of fossil fuels, we must also make sure we rise to the crisis to reduce the supply of those same toxic emissions, to save our planet and save our communities from these devastating impacts. Thank you, CalGEM, for providing this opportunity for us to share these comments today, and we look forward to partnering with you to figure out this solution together.

Candace: Thank you. Would Nelson Ayala, John DeWitt, and Tommy [1:45:59 inaudible], please, press pound two on your phone? That's Nelson Ayala, John DeWitt, and Tommy [1:46:10 inaudible]. Please, press pound two on your phone. And, again, I apologize for mispronouncing names. Nelson Ayala, your line is open.

Nelson: Good morning my name is Nelson Ayala. I'm a [1:46:28 inaudible] community member and investor for the SCLA Push project. It seems like we're all here because we care about the same thing, the well-being of our families, for today and in the future. The community of South Los Angeles are living with oil wells in the backyards and near their schools and skate ramps, threatening the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. I'm here pretty much to refer to Governor Gavin Newsom and call a [1:47:04 inaudible] to take immediate action to protect communities and families who live, work, worship, and go to school near an active oil well and refineries across California.

It seems also that everybody's thinking, or saying that think about jobs in the oil industry, but I wanted to say this; that why don't we think about the hundreds, thousands, families that are going to be affected by this industry over the years to come? We're going to have to deal with the aftermath of all the health problems. I think to do something in South Los Angeles. Our community deserves better. Thank you very for the time, and have a great day.

Candace: Tommy [1:47:54 inaudible], your line is open.

Tommy: Good morning supervisory staff and Calgem staff. My name is Tommy [1:48:05 inaudible]. I represent IBEW local 11. We have 11,000 members in the L.A. County area, and we also represent 400+ electrical contractors in L.A. County. We represent a lot of our members that actually work in the oil and gas industry. This is nothing new to us when it comes to performing a workout in the field, in these type of fields. We go above and beyond when it comes to safety protocol. We urge the CalGEM staff to keep organized labor at the rulemaking process and we also support a zero ft. setback. Thank you.

Candace: Thanks very much. Again, John DeWitt, Daryl Gail, and Wesley Chang, please press pound two on your phone. That's John DeWitt, Daryl Gail, and Wesley Chang. All right. Would Linda Bassett, Hugo Garcia, please, press pound two on your phone. That's Linda Bassett, and Hugo Garcia. Hugo Garcia, your line is open.

Hugo: Good morning. Can you hear me there?

Candace: Yes.

Hugo: Okay. Good morning, Hugo Garcia. I'm a resident of El Sereno community in East Los Angeles. I'm a campaign coordinator for environmental justice for Esperanza Community housing in South Central Los Angeles, and the People, Not Pozos campaign, or People, Not Oil Wells campaign. I'm speaking today because I'm concerned about the effects of neighborhood oil drilling operations and environmental justice. I interact on a daily basis with residents whose health been adversely impacted due to chemicals that have been admitted by Allan Co. Energy on 23rd Street in the University Park Community.

Why is it that brown and black communities have to continue to bear the brunt of social and health inequities? It's estimated that up to 70% of inland oil drilling site exist in communities of color. Emerging scientific evidence points to the link between fossil fuel production and negative health outcomes. Adults and children in the University Park community have been afflicted with profuse nosebleeds, respiratory ailments, asthma flare-up, headaches, premature mortality, and severe nausea. This is the harsh reality of what oil drilling does to communities and this is why it needs to change. On a larger scale over 5 million Californians live within 1 mile of an oil and gas well, and of those, 1/3 live in areas with the highest levels of pollution in the state. I demand that Governor Newsom and Calgem protect health and neighborhood statewide by establishing a 2500 ft. health and safety buffer between homes --

Candace: Thank you. Please, go ahead, your line is open

Linda: Hi. thank you very much. My name is Linda Bassett. I was for 25 years a teacher in Wilmington; I just retired. I'm a former resident of Carson. I was selected for a second four-year term to the L.A. County Central Committee for the Democratic party. As a former [1:52:14 inaudible] democratic club and a member of the AB-

617 community steering community. I'm involved with Stand L.A. and CBE. I know the community.

I know the effects of all of the problems there, but especially about this oil rigs in the community. And I strongly demand that we have the 2500 ft. setback. I've experienced first-hand the smells and consequences of the chemicals that children experience living in these communities. Asthma, nosebleeds, headaches, rashes, deadly, rare leukemias and cancers, birth defects, stomachaches, headache, heart disease, trying to teach children in this area and children trying to learn, it's very difficult. Children have asthma at such rates it's unbelievable. During P.E., most children are [1:53:03 inaudible] say that they can't run and play because they have asthma and the air is bad, is terrible. We know the impact. It's unquestionable that we are still deliberating on this issue. We lack political will.

I hope Joe [1:53:16 inaudible] and Gavin Newson – you have children. You know what's going on. Stop taking money from the oil industry. The oil industry is a dead industry, and the jobs that go along with them. It never stops. Jobs is not a reason not to do the right thing here. You can't go and pump gas, you can't shop at Target without seeing warning signs. Put warning signs up on all the homes and in the communities, "It's a danger to go in there," because it has cancer. You may get cancer coming in here. See what that does. And losing jobs hasn't stopped businesses from taking jobs out of our country it shouldn't be a reason to not do the right thing and protect Americans. They deserve clean air, soil --

Candace: Thanks everyone. Would Amanda DeRosier and Sean Connor, please, press pound two on your phone. That's Amanda DeRosier and Sean Connor, please, press pound two on your phone. Amanda, your line is open.

Amanda: Thank you very much. I want to say thank you to all of the CalGEM officials who are holding this meeting today. I am a resident of California who both lives within 1,000 ft. of oil wells and also works on an oil field the majority of my day is in an office. I see firsthand how hard the men and women who work for oil companies, to the lengths that they go in order to keep our community safe. Our family breathe this air as well, and we wouldn't feel safe coming to work in an environment that was going to be harmful or living in an environment that was going to be harmful. I want to express my gratitude for listening to both sides on this issue, and also to urge the community and CalGEM to please, take into account science when making any decisions and advocate against the institution of a 2500 ft. setback. Thank you very much.

Candace: Thank you. Would Sean Connor and Graham Hamilton, please, press pound two on your phones. That's Sean Connor and Graham Hamilton, please, press pound two on your phones. All right. Do we have Jennifer [1:56:10 inaudible] and Sherry Lear on the line? Please, press pound two on your phone. Sherry, your

line is open. Please, make sure your phone isn't set to mute. Sherry Lear, your line is open.

Sherry: Hello. Am I supposed to talk now? It's a little confusing.

Candace: Yes, you can talk now.

Sherry: Okay, sorry. My name is Sherry Lear and I'm co-organizer of 350 South Bay Los Angeles. We're an all-volunteer organization working to help stop climate change and have a just transition to clean energy. I'm also a resident of Los Angeles and a business owner in Torrance. Both areas are full of active oil wells. My son grew up playing at Sur La Brea Park, which has three active wells inside of it. California does not have any regulations about setbacks, which is a commonsense health and safety measure that virtually every state that has oil drilling already has in place. States like Texas, etcetera. The science is clear that 2500 ft. is a **[1:57:46 inaudible]** setback from oil drilling.

As we move forward, please, we're asking you to keep these facilities out of our parks, our playgrounds, our schools, our neighborhoods. Implementing such a rule isn't going to cost anyone any existing jobs but it will protect the most vulnerable of our communities. We're all here because we care about the same thing. We care about our families, our children, we want to breathe clean air. Prioritizing community health and safety with these actions is also an opportunity to plan a just transition, to create a resilient, thriving, economic future for California with healthy family supporting jobs for workers and clean air.

I'm very glad that Governor Newsom has stepped up and asked Calgem to consider these regulations. They are long overdue. I've personally seen the effects of oil drilling and oil refining in my community and on my family. Thank you very much for your time.

Candace: Thank you. Sarah?

Sarah: Thank you, Candace. Hi everyone. This is Sarah Rubin, the meeting facilitator. I just want to acknowledge that we are a few minutes after 12 and we officially had planned to end the meeting at this time. And I know it's a lot of time if you've been on the whole time. I just want to **[1:59:27 inaudible]** that there are lots of ways to comment. If you have to go and you can't stay with us, we have an email, we have a SurveyMonkey, we have an anonymous instant polling happening tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and you can mail in your comments. We'll go another 45 minutes so we can hopefully get in quite a few more people. But if you need to depart, we appreciate you coming. With that, Candace, you want to keep going?

Candace: Absolutely. Jennifer Blue, your line is open.

Jennifer: Hi. My name is Jennifer Blue and I live in South Los Angeles. My husband and I sent our three children to the preschool at Mount Saint Mary's University Doheny Campus, which at the time we had no idea was adjacent to the Allen Co. drill site. We had no idea why, all of the sudden, at age 3 each of our children started to have regular nosebleeds. We didn't find out until after they had finished with the preschool about the Allen Co. site. And in the years the site had increased their operations without permitting were the years that our middle son attended the preschool. He developed asthma and has to use his inhaler now daily. We live less than a mile from the Murphy drill site, which is .4 miles from my son's school, Mid-City Prescott. He tells me that ten of his classmates all have asthma. Why is it that our children have to be exposed to all these toxic chemicals when they are at school?

Not only is the Murphy drill site close to my son's school, there are two large senior living facilities across the street. My mother and father in law are residents there, and I was shocked and alarmed to learn that there are two major leaks at the Murphy site, each capable of causing a catastrophic explosion. Why is it that our seniors have to be at risk of a catastrophic explosion? Our home is a half a mile from the Jeffersonville drill site which connected to the Murphy drill site. Event though the city has ordered the Jefferson site to stop operation, they have continued.

When I first learned about what was happening at the Jeffersonville drill site, I learned about the endocrine destructors being used there. And it dawned on me that I had suffered two miscarriages. And between six friends, we have suffered 11. It's the Jefferson drill site that and all of us lost our children. I'm in full support of the 2500 ft. buffer needed to protect our communities. Thank you.

Candace: Thank you. Jonathan Gregory and Oscar del Cid, please press pound two on your phones. Also, if Sean Connor and Graham Hamilton are still with us, please, press pound two as well. That's Jonathan Gregory, Oscar del Cid, Sean Connor, and Graham Hamilton. Oscar, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Oscar: Hi. My name is Oscar del Cid. I'm business agent with local 250. I've worked around the Torrance Refineries. I've worked within the refineries. I've now become a business agent local. We have thousands of members at work within those refineries, we have safety regulations, safety training. We pride ourselves in being skilled and trained workforce. We're constantly maintaining safeguard practices. Our members are getting livable wages, able to afford housing, able to pay for their family's expenses, and during this time, that's a big deal for working families, having workable jobs.

Currently, right now, there is no renewable energy that will replace fuel entirely. We still have to have air travel, there's still other modes of transportation out there that require the fuel. We are in an economy that losing jobs right now can be detrimental to the future of these families if we just transition to different fields that don't have the same livable wages that we already have with the

piping and the pipe trade. I am just speaking my opinion based off our members and supporting them. And I'm not in support of the 2500 ft. setback. That is all.

Candace: Again, Sean Connor, Graham Hamilton, Jonathan Gregory and in addition, Edward Hazard and Christopher Jennings. If any of you are on the line still, please, press pound two on your phones. Edward, your line is open.

Edward: Hello. My name is Ed Hazard. I'm a fifth generation Californian. My family and I are California oil and gas mineral and royalty owners, and I'm the president of the California chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owners. United States is the only nation on Earth that allows the private citizens to own the mineral rights. In California estimated to be about 500,000 royalty owners. Those are people getting royalty check for oil production. I want to address the 5th Amendment issue of takings. I'm hoping that the state realizes – I know they realize – that there would be potentially tens of thousands of mineral and royalty owners would have their rights taken by this 2500 ft. setback.

And I have a question for you, which I don't expect you to answer here, but I want you to address this in the future. Is the state prepared to compensate those of us whose property would be taken, and have they evaluated their potential liability under each of the proposed setbacks? I think it's very important that that be calculated into this process. Thank you very much.

Candace: Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead. Hi, the line is open. Please make sure that your phone is not set to mute.

Kyle: Hi, my name is Kyle Ferrara. I'm the toxicologist, a data analyst, and a certified Optical Gas Imaging camera operator. I work for the FracTracker Alliance and for Earthwork, and have worked in several district positions as well, doing environmental and health and safety work. First off, I would like to address the issue of production in California. I am the individual who did the majority of the analyses showing how many oil wells would be impacted by a 2500 ft. setback. And according to our analysis of all of the production in California, the amount of production impacted by 2500 ft. setback is less than 10% of all the production in the state. And with over ten refineries in the state, we're talking of less than 1% of refinery capacity being impacted by a 2500 ft. setback, which is a rounding error. The idea that this is going to cost California jobs is not true.

Now, as a toxicologist, I'd also like to – and working with epidemiologists in the public health field, I would like to address the robust literature that exists showing public health impact, including neurological impacts, asthma, and cancer impact in states like Colorado and Pennsylvania, where there are a very few industrial sites that are impacting people's health. We know what exactly is in the emissions coming from oil and gas wells, and we also know that the health impacts are. And then using the Optical Gas Imaging, if you take a look at Earthworks, Community and Empowerment Project, that's CEP, Earthworks CEP, you can see the emissions in California that I have filmed coming from the oil

and gas well. Our work is responsible for the violations that were issued at Murphy drilling site in L.A. as well as the Jefferson drilling site. So, --

Candace: Thanks to everyone. Jonas Meehan, our line is open.

Jonas: Hi. My name is Jonas Meehan and I am here on behalf of National [2:09:15 **inaudible**] for environmental health, or CEH. I am also here as a California native where my home for 25+ years in the greater Los Angeles area. I stand in solidarity with the affected communities in Los Angeles, California and urge CalGEM and Governor Newsom to phase out oil production in exposed communities and create policy mandating a 2500 ft. health and safety buffer zone between oil production and homes, schools, and other highly populated sites.

As an NPH candidate and a field [2:09:42 **inaudible**] learning what impacts oil drilling has on society, causing adverse respiratory, mental, and overall health effects. However, many Angelinos do not have access to this type of information that would trigger more widespread public concern overactive drilling within minutes from their homes, work, or school. Myself included, was only aware of the magnitude of urban drilling after taking an environmental guest course at USF, and was left appalled by the lack of concern by corporations and municipalities who fund active drilling.

In my hometown, La Alhambra, there are eight oil wells identified through public works website that left me in shock. Three of them triangulate around in extremely frequented a densely populated park where many in my neighborhood would go to work out, jog, and play sports. They exposed to hazardous air pollutants that are the byproducts to drilling, such as methane and detox chemicals put many at risk for developing respiratory conditions or escalating preexisting conditions. The many residents view this park as a way to get some fresh air. It is ironic how the fresh air is just as toxic as air you would find in close proximity [2:10:49 **inaudible**].

I hope all the testimonies you hear today turns the tide in favor for environment justice and public health to sustain our future in this planet where we can promote healthier ways living while maintaining progress by transitioning oil producing jobs toward progressive green initiatives and policies. Thank you.

Candace: We're going to take another round of names and then return to those who did not register ahead of time. But at this moment could Estela Ortega, Lorena Krasinski, Ben Oakley, and Eddie Rivera, please, press pound two on your phones. That's Estella Ortega, Lorena Krasinski, Ben Oakley, and Eddie Rivera.

Lorena: Hello.

Candace: Yes, please go ahead.

Lorena: Hello.

Candace: Yes, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Lorena: Okay, thank you. Good afternoon. sir. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Lorena and I'm the wife of an oil industry worker. I know rules have to change with time, and I agree that we need to keep people safe. But that doesn't mean to sacrifice the oil workers and their families. I am worried that those changes indicate closing down oil companies. What will happen to my husband's job? He's the only supporter for our family. I know it won't be easy for us and for all other families who depend on the oil worker salary. Please, remember that behind each oil worker there is a family that is counting on their salary for survival. Thank you so much, and have a nice day.

Candace: Ben Oakley, your line is open.

Ben: Hi, thank you. My name is Ben Oakley. I'm the California coastal region manager for the Western States Petroleum Association. I've worked as an environmental health and safety manager in California oil industry for well over a decade. For most of my career, I spent every working day right in the middle of California's oil fields to protect the environment and ensure that our employees and communities are safe. [2:13:21 inaudible] to this critical mission. So, we appreciate the CalGEM's taking the time to listen to everyone who cares about the health of this community. And we can all agree that nothing is more important than the health and safety of the communities where the women and man of our industry work, live, and raise their families.

Our industry works closely with state lawmakers and community leaders to support data-driven policies that protect our communities. AB-617, a Bill our industry supported, is the perfect example of community and Industry collaboration to advance the very important conversation around community air quality using the best available data and science. The bottom line is we care [2:14:04 inaudible] and safety of this community because we live and work in this community. And we hope that through civil dialogue and collaboration we can find ways to share our technical expertise to safeguard the health of our people and region. We believe in scientific and data-driven solutions. Our industry is filled with some of the best and brightest minds in science and engineering, who've been working on these issues for a long time.

We aren't always going to agree on everything, but let's start with what we do agree on; Everyone deserves to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and have access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy. Thank you.

Candace: Eddie Rivera, your line is open.

Eddie: Good afternoon. My name is Eddie Rivera and I live and work in Southern California. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my thoughts and opinions. I wanted to state that I am opposed to these new rules and policies. I would like for you guys to keep a few things in mind when creating these new rules and

policies. First and foremost, we need to focus and keep our attention on the workers that could possibly be displaced by these policies. It could hurt a lot of men and women that work in the gas and oil industry, and that would mean less money for their family, so it drastically affects their families directly. Obviously, a lot of them are union workers and have benefits and pensions that would be affected by this displacement. I'd like to focus as well the oil and gas industry is it is a very important industry in the California economy, and it directly affects everything else we do here in California. As these policies are created, I just ask that you keep the workers, their families, and everything that is related to oil and gas at the front of the conversation. Thank you for your time, have a great afternoon.

Candace: At this time, anyone who did not register in advance for today's meeting, please press pound two on your phone. Anyone who did not register in advance for today's meeting, please, press pound two on your phone. If we can we will take five additional questions from those who did not register for the meeting. Please, go ahead, your line is unmuted. Hi, your line is unmuted. Please, go ahead. Please, make sure that your phone isn't set to mute.

Male Speaker: I'd like to speak in favor of the setback. Is my phone unmuted? Those damages are real. Certainly, the people in the oil industry working on safety, but they need to be made more safe. It's not a takings issue because the state does have the power to regulate and any regulation is going to affect profits. If every regulation were taking issue there wouldn't be any regulation and that's not right. So, we need to have a setback to protect our people, to say nothing of the future of the planet. The oil industry's done irresponsible things drilling through aquifers that could be your line is raised and irresponsible things drilling through aquifers that could be purified. There's been a history of disregard of its spread of pollution. It should stop. We don't need oil. We can make a transition. Thank you.

Candace: Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead. Hi, please, go ahead. Your line is open.

Charles: Hello, can you hear me?

Candace: Yes.

Charles: Hello, my name is Charles Davidson, from the Sunflower Alliance, to speak in support of the 2500 ft. well setback. California doesn't need to produce more oil as claimed by drilling companies and some cities and counties looking to increase revenues. California refineries actually produce more gas than every consuming state. At present, 33% of the petroleum goods refined in California are produced for export. California crude makes up only 25% of state crude use, and that amount continues its multi-decade decrease. So, increasing California oil production would not eliminate the need to import foreign crude, nor drilling near people's homes and schools. California oil fields have been seriously depleted over the last few decades, increasingly realigning extreme extraction

such as fracking and acidizing in order to coax out increasingly hard to reach oil from the ground.

As proven by the pre-Covid-19 pandemic, the amount of pollution release and fuels inefficiently burned during the pre-Covid daily rush hours, with each vehicle getting only several miles per gallon must be eliminated. And that would eliminate any corporate excuse for drilling anywhere near people's homes. The conservative well setback distance being asked for and currently proposed legislation Ab-345 should be several times further for both ethical and extremely well documented medical reasons. Benzene and ground level ozone kill, and the impact of oil production in California are disproportionately experienced by communities which are financially and politically disadvantaged. Thank you very much.

Candace: Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Seth: This is Seth Steiner, in Los Alamos. Your mission statement reads as follows, "CalGEM prioritizes protecting public health, safety, and the environment in its oversight of the oil, natural gas, and geothermal industries, while working to help California achieve its climate change and clean energy rules." Failure to thoroughly deliver on your mission is not acceptable. Robust rules and regulations alone are not sufficient. They're a beginning, a foundation. CalGEM's past life as a DOGGR was regrettable. Financial conflict of supervisors and staff, lacks and even shoddy science and engineering oversight and reckless enforcements. There was arguably malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance. DOGGR consistently acted as an enabler of the oil industry at the expense of residents, of taxpayers, and the environment.

This now is Calgem's opportunity to do much better. This is not 1920. You must protect our most valuable resource, which is water. You must act to limit climate change. We must all, either allow or encourage the transition to clean energy for our health and our livelihoods. CalGEM can no longer be an agency that primarily serves an aging industry focused on short-term profit at the expense of our present and future, of the public health and safety, and of the environment. AS you perform well, you'll have many allies. We fully expect you to fulfill your stated mission. You have our full attention. Thank you.

Candace: Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Marianne: Hi. Good morning, my name is Marianne. I'm the mother of an oil industry worker, and I have a different point of view probably, that he supports his family, he has three children, a wife. And the employees and the family's income supports the communities for all these employees who work in there. They pay expenses, they have a lot of things to do, so I would like them to pay attention about what are the impact that they're going to have, specially now, when unemployment is really high. That would be really difficult for the people if they start getting laid off or something like. I would think that they would pay

attention to all the complications. I know we need some changes, but the human consequences can be more than just the ones that we can see right there, at the moment. So, I really hope that they can take in consideration all these employees who work in there because that would be a really bad impact on their economy and a lot of people's economy. Thank you.

Candace: Thank you very much. Your line is open, please, go ahead.

Female Speaker: Who you're talking to?

Candace: Your line is open. **[2:24:40 crosstalk]**

Female Speaker: Are you talking to me? Who you're talking to?

Candace: Yes, I'm talking to you.

Female Speaker: Okay, thank you. I live in **[2:24:55 inaudible]** County. I agree that union jobs are very important. I hope that the unions and the department of conservation and Calgem are working on creating good jobs, especially for local union workers that are part of the solution to climate change. I'd also like to say that drilling through potable groundwater, aquifer is incredibly dangerous, more reason to think that the oil companies are going to prevent a disaster from happening there reliably. Testing the produced water in a public database, I think it's very important, as is monitoring methane emissions, and finally, given all the dangers, bond requirements for LLC's, given the record of bankruptcies, the possibility of bankruptcies and the record of disasters and expensive cleanups. Thank you.

Candace: All right, we're going to go back to some of the individuals who registered in advance. I'm going to clear your hands at the moment, but please, don't hang up in case we do have an opportunity to come back to open questions again. But at the moment can Corey Burns and Ernesto Medrano, please, press pound two on your phones? That's Corey Burns and Ernesto Medrano. Alright, how about Amanda Gimenez and Michael Jones. Amanda Gimenez and Michael Jones, please, press pound two on your phones. Your line is open Amanda, please, go ahead.

Amanda: Good morning. My name is Amanda Gimenez, and I'm part of the department of preventive medicine at UFC. Air surrounding oil and gas production areas are vulnerable to toxic emissions. With relevance to drilling operations in California, a recent review concluded that the production base with a lengthy operation timeframe, episodic decommission events, and the largest number of hazard air pollutants sourced to the various equipment and operation has the potential to submit the highest concentration of hazardous air pollutants over the longest period of time. Air quality is further compromised by truck traffic to and from drilling sites, or operation of diesel equipment. Exposure to these air pollutants has been higher near drilling sites, including in Los Angeles.

The scientific literature demonstrates adverse human health impact during exposure to these chemicals. Acute inhalation exposure to petroleum hydrocarbons have found increased eye irritation, migraine headaches and asthma symptoms. Toxic metals and petroleum hydrocarbons have also been measured in soil and water near oil operations. Oil and gases [2:28:28 inaudible] of oil drilling, like hydrogen sulfites affect human organ systems, particularly mucus membranes, central nervous system, the respiratory system, the cardiovascular system, and the gastrointestinal system. At ambient levels, odor and chemicals may produce irritation of the eyes, nose and throat. Such compounds can induce symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, headaches, stress, negative mood and tingling sensations.

There is evidence that chronic exposure to elevated ambient concentration upon the respiratory system on both adults and children. From a public health perspective, given the existing evidence on adverse health impact in oil and gas development, it is important to reduce exposures to harmful pollutants near homes, schools, and workplaces. Thank you very much.

Candace: Would Corey Burns, Ernesto Medrano, Michael Jones and Laura Rosenberger Haider, please, press pound key on your phone. Again, that's Corey Burns, Ernesto Medrano, Michael Jones and Laura Rosenberger Haider, please, press pound two on your phone? Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Female Speaker: Governor Newsom [2:29:57 inaudible] fracking in Bakersfield, near the oilfields in China Grade Loop used to [2:30:02 inaudible] radioactive [2:30:04 inaudible] 2.5 [2:30:05 inaudible] on the roads, which could penetrate the lungs. Down gradient western south of there is uranium pollution in two public water wells. Uranium pollution is also found in oilfield in Syria and workers got exposed [2:30:20 inaudible]. Oil from the North Dakota oilfield was radioactive and secretly dumped in a regular landfill. Near an oil well, Pennsylvania, a stream was contaminated with uranium, environmental working groups found fracking wastewater from [2:30:39 inaudible] industry that has 1000 times the public health goal of radium in 93% of its samples. Radium was also found in the [2:30:53 inaudible] after Aliso Canyon blew. So, for radiation, there's no safe level. We need a distance buffer.

Candace: Thank you. Would Jimmy Reed, Michael Jones, Laura Rosenberger Haider, please, press pound two on your phones. Again, Jimmy Reed, Michael Jones, and Laura Rosenberger Haider. Him your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Jimmy: Thank you. My name is Jimmy Reed. I'm with PTW Advance. I've been in the oil and gas industry for 14 years, and the company I work for is a family-owned company that's been supporting the industry for over 25 years. We'd like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the community conversation and we applaud CalGEM for providing a forum to hear from all voices that care about the health of our communities. I think it's helpful to start with that we all agree that there's nothing more important than the health and safety of the

communities where the men and women of our industry work, and where we all raise our families. We all have children and we all agree that we want the best environment for them.

Safety is deep rooted in the DNA of our industry and we'd like to recognize the extraordinary level of commitment and expertise across the oil and gas industry, who work really diligently to keep our employees and our community's health and safe. I think it's good to note that the greatest health risk to every community is poverty. And any policy that removes jobs and negatively affect the [2:33:02 inaudible] for the community and also affects those that maybe lose their jobs or the ability to provide healthcare for their family can be detrimental. All things need to be considered when you're looking at the industry and the effects.

And we are the most environmentally conscious on the planet. If your mission statement intends to reduce global warming, that's a world problem, not a local problem. And we need to do our part with that as well. And we're the most environmental conscious area in the country, or in the world. Thank you for your time.

Candace: Michael, your line is open.

Michael: Hi. My name is Michael Jones. I am a Community member and I've lived in South L.A. for the last four years, just a little bit over 1000 ft. from the Murphy drill site. The site has operated recklessly, spewing toxic chemicals into our air, allowing methane levels to reach dangerous points, and operating day and night without ceasing. Further, because the site is hidden behind a convent and walls, many of my neighbors do not even know of the existence of this site and how it is abusing our community's health. Oil and gas activities have no place in a residential community. Our community is just one of many across Los Angeles and the state of California that is negatively impacted by the toxic practice of neighborhood oil drilling.

I urge Governor Newsom and CalGEM to exercise bold and courageous leadership to phase out oil production in exposed communities by creating a 2500 ft. health and safety buffer zone between fossil fuel infrastructure and homes, schools, hospitals, parks, and other sensitive land uses. Our children and families deserve a much better future. Thank you so much.

Candace: Thank you. Would Jessica Paquette, Aretha Wormsley, and if she's here, Laura Rosenberger Haider, please, press pound two on your phone. Again, Jessica Paquette, Aretha Wormsley, and Laura Rosenberger Haider. Jessica, your line is open.

Jessica: Hi, my name is Jessica Paquette, and I'm an environmental manager in the oil and gas industry. And nothing has been more important to me than the environment and the safety of the people we work with and the people around

us. However, I do want to say that writing is regulation seems a little premature. There isn't any sound science. And all the science that everyone keeps quoting here is more correlation and surveys. There hasn't been any really hard data on what it is like to actually live next to these oil facilities. And then somebody that has worked in the industry for 10 years, it seems like with Covid-19, actually the air is a lot cleaner due to us not driving, versus our oil wells that have been producing this entire time.

And as somebody else who has asthma, my asthma has been a lot better now due to the fact not people driving. And it's not because of the fact that we shut down any oil that I'm working around. I do have to say is that we all live in a very populated area and by us time to come up with the fact that anyone has any health problems as defective, we all live by a very big freeway. We live in a very overpopulated city. And the oil was here first. So, it's very difficult for us to be saying that by created this 2500 ft. setback is going to actually do anything at all.

So, from there we need to have some sound science. This needs to be done for us to actually move forward in any kind of rulemaking. By creating some kind of setback here, by just shooting at the hip, we're going to deal with a lot of litigation from royalty owners, from oil companies and those things. And this is kind of just trying to calm the public's fear. This rulemaking tends to be kind of coming from a sense of fear versus moving from science. If we had some hard science you would know, we are able to what actually is the public health thing here. So, as somebody who has been --

Candace: Thank you very much. Laura, your line is open. Please, go ahead.

Laura: When Governor Newsom permitted fracking in Bakersfield oil fields in China Grade Loop east of that radioactive TMT point site [2:38:01 inaudible] on the roads which could penetrate the lungs [2:38:04 inaudible], down gradient to the western south, there is uranium pollution in two public water wells. And uranium pollution was also found in the oil [2:38:14 inaudible] workers get exposed in cancer. Oil from the North Dakota oilfield was radioactive and secretly dumped into a regular landfill. Near an oil well in Pennsylvania, a stream was contaminated with radium. In California, a farm was contaminated with radioactive isotopes and the soil replaced. Environmental working groups found fracking wastewater from area industries containing on the average the amount or radium 1000 times the public health goal in 93% of its samples. Radium was found in the hair of neighbors near Alisa Canyon after it blew. There's no safe levels for radiation. We need a distance buffer. Thanks.

Candace: I believe we have time for one more question. And the next on my list is Keenan Sheedy. If you could press pound two. And second on my list is Alison Stewart. If you could press pound two as well. That's Keenan Sheedy and Alison Stewart. How about Gus Torres or Perry Hawkins? Gus Torres, your line is open. Please, make sure your phone isn't set to mute.

Gus: Yes, good afternoon. My name is Gus Torres. Can you hear me? Hello?

Candace: Yes. Yes, we can hear you.

Gus: Okay. I was saying my name is Gus Torres and I represent UA local 250 pipe fitters, welders in the premises. And our membership is 6500 strong. We're all in support of the oil and gas industry and to continue the good paying jobs that will help the economy and allow the workers to continue supporting their families. Thank you for your time, God bless, and stay safe.

Candace: Thank you very much. I believe that's all the time we have for questions at this time or comments, I should say.

Sarah: Sorry Candace I was unmuting my phone.

Candace: That's all right. And you should be able to sell your video now.

Sarah: Here we are. There we go. For those of you who are still with us, thank you so much for joining us today. We really appreciate your time. We know it's a lot of time on the phone. And it was so interesting and helpful to hear such a great range of comments. We got two more virtual townhall opportunities. One is on the 28th, that one will be entirely in Spanish. And then one is on June 2nd, at 1 p.m. it'll be just like this one. And then we have our four other ways we invite you to share your comments with us. The instant polling, including one of the polling days is tomorrow. Our online survey, our email, or the U.S. Postal Service. And anything that you can do to help us spread the word, we will be very grateful for. So, on behalf of the Department of Conservation and CalGEM, thank you for being with us and have a good afternoon. Bye-bye.

Candace: That concludes our conference. Thank you for using AT&T Event Services Enhanced. You may now disconnect.