



## CalGEM Public Health Rulemaking Summary of Input from the Online Survey

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

The Online Survey application, Survey Monkey, was open to the public for submissions from May 5, 2020 through June 10, 2020.

- 406 survey responses were received

Participants in the survey responded to two questions. This report is a summary of the responses received.

### **Question 1: What would you like to see in the rule?** **¿Qué le gustaría ver en la reglamentación?**

- Requirements based on scientific data with measurable improvements in health outcomes
- Variability / flexibility by region and locality; measures developed in coordination with local land use authorities
- Sunsetting of all wells within 2500 feet of urban areas
- Enforce economic justice by requiring 50% of each quarter's gross income be put into an escrow account to cover closing costs including plugging and abandonment and remediation
- All wells to cease operation on or before 2030 to comply with California law and climate goals
- All workers trained in cleaning up wells sites for a just transition
- 2500-foot health and safety buffer zone between fossil fuel infrastructure and sensitive sites
- Deny all fracking permits and rescind those issued
- Promulgate additional regulations in 2021 and beyond
- Inclusion of a public health physician among CalGEM staff

- Access to affordable, reliable energy and good paying jobs
- Recognition that foreign oil production and imports pose serious risks to public health; study of emissions from supertankers
- Seismic monitoring of injection wells
- Plain language
- A list of chemicals monitored, including radioactive, posted for public review; include action levels for all chemicals including radioactive isotopes
- Establish permissible exposure criteria
- Continuous monitoring of radon and heavy metals
- Material data safety sheets for all chemical supplements; public disclosure without proprietary protections
- No new cyclic steaming
- No drilling in high fire hazard zones
- No drilling that adds tanker truck traffic
- A moratorium on new wells
- A ban on flaring
- Containment of fugitive methane
- Public access to all air monitoring data
- Scenario planning for a large earthquake
- A balanced approach being mindful of tax revenue
- A balanced approach to environmental issues with a focus on preventing exposure to human and ecological receptors
- Educate the public, law makers and environmentalists what rules and regulations are already in effect and the standards to which this industry is currently held to
- A data driven process with cost-benefit analysis
- A full review of earthquake risks before permitting wastewater injection
- Plug inactive drilling sites and have oil companies pay for remediation
- A streamlined, simplified, and cost-effective way to acquire permits for drilling, fracking, injection, workover and P&A with a mandatory time to approve
- Hospital services near large oil production areas
- Energy independence; the ability to produce our own energy
- A requirement that all new wells have funding for end of life abandonment
- An automated and structured process for permitting that shows the workflow between CalGEM and the operator
- A way to produce the resource and keep people safe
- Allow fracking and steam injection
- Allow oil companies to continue and focus on end users instead
- Allow active wells in neighborhoods
- Natural gas storage is needed
- Better dialog with industry

- Accountability for the industry
- Analyze health impacts of regulations that affect jobs
- Care and consideration for sustainability, biodiversity preservation, and environmental justice
- Clear guidelines that are time tested
- Rights for mineral owners
- Common sense and intellectual honesty
- Complete moratorium on oil and gas extraction in the state
- Study of emissions from imports to compare with domestic
- Dedicated community health advisory group within CalGEM
- Do more to protect children and vulnerable communities
- Eliminate all rules on well stimulation; reduce the role of California State agencies in the regulation of the oil and gas industry
- Exemption of complete liability if it is shown that the agency had taken appropriate action at the time the matter was discovered, or incident occurred
- Existing best practices recognized and expanded to all operators, such as monitoring and a highly qualified workforce
- Fair and honest treatment for the oil industry
- New rules are unnecessary; industry is already strictly regulated
- Groundwater protection
- Road repairs / better roads
- Higher bonding requirements
- An all-of-the-above energy strategy
- Avoid noisy night operations
- Avoid negative impacts to local jobs
- California environmental laws to mirror federal laws
- Independent study showing risks to people and the environment
- Keep unincorporated parts of Kern County at 210 feet
- Protections for wells that were drilled prior to the encroachment of sensitive receptors; no new housing with ¼ mile of existing fields
- Less regulation
- No overlap with air quality districts and CARB
- More jobs
- Multi-use of oil land; agriculture, recreation, hunting
- Constant monitoring of pollutant levels at wells and shut down when spikes occur
- Exempt from new rules the operators with 24/7 qualified health and safety personnel
- Prioritize all businesses to open and kids back to school full-time
- Public record of hydrotest and smart pig records for lines within 1 mile of residence

- Regulations and assessments on imported energy
- Require full environmental impact assessment for development
- Require use of composite pipe rather than steel pipe where applicable
- Safety guidelines and best practices for waste water management
- Risk analysis on each regulatory requirement
- Prevent further pollution and destruction of the environment
- Reparations
- No setbacks
- Simplification
- Oil and gas companies should be free to explore the minerals for fair compensation of nearby communities
- A path forward to reduce international imports of oil and gas and increase California oil production
- A setback distance of no more than 500 feet; a buffer zone of at least 1 mile or more; a setback distance of at least 5 miles
- Tax credits for companies producing local oil and gas and tariffs on any oil and gas brought into the state from other countries

**Question 2: Which stakeholder group do you align with, if any? (Check all that apply)**  
**¿Con cuál(es) grupo(s) de interés se alinea usted, si alguno?**

Academic/Académico – 82

Environmental/Medio ambiental – 157

Environmental Justice/Justicia ambiental – 103

Labor/Sindicato – 56

Oil and Gas Industry/Industria petróleo y gas – 164

Public Health/Salud pública – 93

None of the above/Ninguna de las anteriores – 49

Decline to state/Prefiero no contestar - 46

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