

**Candace:** Welcome, and thank you for joining the Department of Conservations, CalGEM 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. If you require technical assistance, please send a chat message to the event producer. With that, I'll turn the conference over to Sarah Rubin, outreach, and engagement coordinator.

**Sarah Rubin:** Hi, thanks, Candace. You want to do one more announcement about audio. I'm already seeing some messages that people are viewing on the computer but not necessarily hearing you, so I don't know if that's actually just something you do in the chat box.

**Candace:** Yes, I'm respond in the chat.

**Sarah Rubin:** Fantastic. All right. Good afternoon. Thank you so much for joining us. My name is Sarah Rubin. I am the Department of Conservations' Outreach and engagement Coordinator. I'm a mediator and facilitator, and I am-- it's really been my pleasure to be involved with this CalGEM, Early Input Public Health Engagement Effort. As many of you may be know who are joining us-- and I'm sure other do not--

We had started a series of ten in-person meetings for our CalGEM Public Health Rulemaking Engagement Effort, and unfortunately, after the first four, we all got to stay at home order until what we've done is, we've moved our effort to the digital. I'll go into it more in a minute. You can see that we have a variety of ways for you to provide your input to us.

Our deadline for comment on the Public Health Rule Making Early Input is June 10<sup>th</sup>, so that's next week, so if we haven't heard from you yet, we're very eager to hear from you today, and/or you are welcomed to email us. We've got an instant poll opened today, and you can check that out simultaneously while we're meeting, and we also have an email that is just for this process, and that's calgemregulationsconservation.ca.gov, and of course, the post office.

I'm going to talk a little bit about the way our public input is going, and let's see here, Candace, I'm going to rely on you. You can just even jump and interrupt me if you want when Supervisor Ntuk is ready to give his opening remarks. We are triaging a little bit here participants, because with everything going on, you know that Supervisor Ntuk [0:03:04 inaudible] just a little bit ago to respond [0:03:08 inaudible].

**Uduak-Joe Ntuk:** [0:03:08 inaudible].

**Sarah Rubin:**

Oh, great, perfect. Let me turn it over to you, and then I will go over to public comment. Welcome. Uduak, I'll let you introduce yourself. I'm so glad you're here.

**Uduak-Joe Ntuk:**

Thanks, Sarah. Hey, good afternoon, everyone. My name's Uduak-Joe Ntuk. I am the State Oil and Gas supervisor over CalGEM, The California Geological Energy Management Division, and I want to just welcome everyone to our third virtual workshop. Sarah was mentioning earlier, we did have ten in-person statewide workshop's plan.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic inhibited our ability to meet in person, but we did not want to stop the process or change our deadline or timeline, and so we pivoted to do three online sessions, and so we had one on May 20<sup>th</sup> in English. We had one on May 28<sup>th</sup>. That was fully in Spanish. Then today is our third virtual workshop. We have a couple of hours together.

I know we gave a little bit of background, but this is high level priority. Arguably the first time in California that we're doing an explicit oil and gas health rule making process, and so we have come at this with a new approach to be as inclusive, as modern, openminded in seeking public input.

It's very rare to have this level of engagement up to state level in direct policymaking, and so taking a different approach here, we wanted to outreach in multiple languages and we could have sessions in Santa Barbara County and Haveli Bakersfield, and we're not able to deal with the-- other in-person-- our goal is that to hear from directly, people of different geographical areas of the state and their perspective on both problems and solutions.

What ideas do you have to improve public health? What solutions should we consider in this rule? We've really taken effort to be transparent. Our notes and summaries from each meeting have been put online, polling and surveying is on our public health webpage for all to view. As we move forward, we need to out all our documentation and information online to make sure that it's available for all to see and participate, so we really try to be as inclusive as possible.

**[0:06:06 inaudible]** governor's announcement last November of statewide-owned gas initiatives really taking a modern approach. We did have a new leadership in CalGEM, formally DOGGR last Fall. We also got a new name and mission change, so we mentioned CalGEM and not DOGGR any longer but, we modified our mission to exclusively add in public health-- protecting public health, life safety

and property, and to be—focused on climate change and winning the state’s clean energy goals.

Really, for our organization, this has moved us from being on the sideline of the conversation to being part of the solution, and so part of the mission and the initiatives has manifested into this public health rulemaking. Just a little background of myself. Originally from Southern California. I grew up in Long Beach. Academically, chemical petroleum engineering degrees at the university level.

I have worked both in the private and the public sector in different capacities, and immediately prior to coming to the state, I was in the city of Los Angeles as a petroleum administrator working on urban oil and gas issues for several years [0:07:36 inaudible] and the council there and probably gotten different departments engaged in various aspects of oil and gas operations in Los Angeles.

I’ve had this unique role of also being a climate change presenter with Al Gore and being a Green For All fellow and really trying to be bring both my technical, professional skills together to approach our common problems from a different perspective, and so along that way of taking the approach, the diversity of ideas leads to better solution. It’s almost-- the more tricks in the kitchen, the better.

I want to say for everyone who is commenting today and giving an input today, that no idea is too small, and no idea is too big. We are seeking all perspectives and looking forward to including that to the final [0:08:37 inaudible] profit—in this process to really have a solid, collaborative, statewide product that we all can work on, and be proud of, and really come to this from a new and different perspectives. With that I will pass the baton to my colleague, and thank you again, for everyone for your participation today.

**Sarah Rubin:**

Thank you, Supervisor Ntuk. I appreciate your time, and I’m also excited about this meeting. We have over 300 people registered and I’m going to now review the ways that the public comment will work. For those of you who’ve joined us through the WebEx should be able to see this on your screen. For those of you who’ve just joined by phone, I’m just going to just go over it. We are going to take comments in two minutes each in what I’m calling rounds.

We’ll rotate between the following stakeholder voices: Community, environmental, industry, labor, public health, other or prefer not to state, and then the folks who’ve phoned in, and so we won’t see your name or any affiliation. I absolutely want to apologize because this is, of course, way too few categories for all of us to be categorized in, but for the sake of trying to keep the public

comments, I'm moving at a quick pace. This is what we have decided we're hoping will work pretty well, and I think we've had pretty good luck with our first two virtual townhalls.

Candace, we are ready to dive into our public comments, and Candace, our host is going to be calling out the names and explaining how she will open your line for you to speak. Candace, I want to say before we dive in is, we really hope and intend to get everybody today, but it possible that we will not have time to hear from everyone.

We're going to try, but if we don't have the chance to have you speak today, we absolutely want to hear from through email or the survey, or the poll, whatever is convenient for you. With that Candace, go ahead.

**Candace:**

I'm going to call out a couple of names at a time. At that time, please press #2 on your telephone which will virtually raise your hand, and then I will unmute your phones one at a time. At this time, Jennifer Blainin and Karen Malanda Magoon, please press #2 on your phone. Hey, your line is opened.

**Jennifer Blainin:**

My name is Jennifer Blainin, and I am a community volunteer. I support STAND-L.A. standing together against neighborhood oil drilling. I support what they do in the community, and their willingness to help us save lives. I'm here today to speak on behalf of clean water, soil, and air. We know that the closer you live to an oil drill, the more likely you are to contract acute, chronic, and fatal diseases, and asthma respiratory illness, and early premature—pre-mature births.

These oil wells are found mostly in black and brown communities. The leaks and **[0:12:18 inaudible]** can contaminate our water and our soil. The oil wells where I live in South L.A. are right in our backyard where we lived, where we worship, oil drilling threatens the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. We want healthy family safety, and security, and opportunities for our families and our children like anyone else.

In order to protect the health and safety of our community, we're asking for a 2,500-foot established distance between the oil wells and where people live and work, and play. We also want to end oil drillings through our drinking water, and we want to restrict hazardous materials being transported through our communities. I believe that by putting people first, by taking the actions and prioritizing our health and safety, it offers us the opportunity to

provide healthier, striving, and a better community for the whole. If one part of pie is rotten, the whole pie is rotten. Thank you so much.

**Candace:**

I did forget to mention that there will be a two-minute triage for everyone to give their comments. Karen, your line is opened.

**Ben Arkwell:**

Hello, this is Ben Arkwell. Am I on the line? I'm very much interested in stopping all the pollution that is going into our ocean and around, and I'm also interested in the saving of lives or persons for a nursing home. I spent four months in a nursing home here in Long Beach. I found that they did not take care of the patients properly, and this has made the health conditions very bad for the patients.

I went as much as 13, 14 hours without getting cleaned up when I had diarrhea and a bowel spill. This is uncalled for. It makes it very dangerous for the patient. No wonder that same nursing home are now out of... has a very high percentage of patients that have had the COVID-19 or coronavirus. They have had out of 95 beds, they've had over 58 patients that have had the COVID virus, and I am astonished that they're still in business with that type of thing.

I'm afraid for all the patients that are in nursing homes and living the supposed two [0:15:18 inaudible] the oil wells that have been drilled here in Long Beach just off the coast. I don't like that. It's not good for me, for any of the other patients. I, by the way, have 36 diagnosed disabilities and hope to come back again and speak again. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Is Karen [0:15:46 inaudible] Magoon on the line? And can Mathew Perry and Robert Smith, please also press #2 on your phones. Karen [0:16:00 inaudible] Magoon, Mathew Perry, and Robert Smith. Press #2 on your phones. Mathew Perry, your line is open.

**Mathew Perry:**

My name's Mathew Perry, and I've worked in oil and gas industry for the last 13 years, and I am a regulatory adviser for California Resource Cooperation. The oil and gas industry has provided me [0:16:27 inaudible] job, and benefits that has allowed me to provide for my family of four. Recently, [0:16:33 inaudible] CalGEM is no longer relying on science and sound engineering practices to build and guide regulatory policies, and rather CalGEM is responded to anti-oil activists claims [0:16:45 inaudible] policy.

This new direction is extremely concerning to me. Please consider the following when you're developing and considering any regulations: California is already one of the most heavily regulated places in the world, and California's dependent on oil is not going away. Why then which you want to import oil from other countries

that do not share our same values like protection of the environment and human rights? Why would you want to shut down a local industry that provide jobs to hundreds of thousands to people and that contributes to an immense amount of tax revenue?

If truly one of the concerns as global warming, then you should want to keep producing here in California where it can be regulated. However, you cannot continue this attack on the California oil and gas industry. With over burdens in regulations that are not founded on science or engineering practices, they're rather false claims that anti-oil activists that will enable a shutdown all oil and gas operations in California.

In conclusion, I ask that CalGEM acknowledge and study the serious impacts of implementing policies and regulations that would harm my job, my family, and my industry, and will impact state's overall employment, budget, local economy, and energy supply. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to voice my concerns.

**Candace:** Thank you. Robert Smith?

**Robert Smith:** Yes, my name is Robert Smith, the Painters in Allied Trade Union in Los Angeles California. These refineries provide incredible career paths for folks in California that's opposed to people in other states bringing-- we're always going to burn gas. We're going to be bringing gas in and we need to do it here in California. California first. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you. Would Matt Leonard and Annalise Anderlee, please press #2 on your phone. Matt Leonard and Annalise Anderlee. Mr. Leonard, your line is open.

**Matt Leonard:** My is name is Matt Leonard, I'm with Global Climate Justice Organization 350.org, and I just want to register our support for a 2,500-foot health and safety buffer from oil and gas extraction. It's well understood that transitioning away from fossil fuels is already happening, doctors, scientists, engineers, community leaders, **[0:19:30 inaudible]** economists. There's a massive **[0:19:31 inaudible]** for new energy feature.

The question that we have is will this transition be driven by climate change, peak oil, fires, droughts, pandemics, or economic **[0:19:40 inaudible]** from an already collapsing industry or we choose to make a shift in an intentional way. It's thoughtful and justice-based that protects workers and communities that are most impacted or reliant on this industry.

It's clear that the CEOs and companies that drive the oil industry, don't care about these communities. They don't care about workers. We shouldn't stand with those [0:20:00 inaudible] because workers are calling for this-- [0:20:02 inaudible] is the first step as part of the plan to could completely shift California's economy away from oil and towards a safer, cleaner [0:20:12 inaudible] future.

We're calling CalGEM to look at this research, look at the science, listen to the community leaders, look at the health impacts, and create regulations that near what we already know: there is no time to waste. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Karen [0:20:30 inaudible] Magoon and [0:20:32 inaudible], please press #2 on your phone. Karen [0:20:38 inaudible] Magoon and [0:20:40 inaudible]. At this time, so that we can make sure everyone who is participating but does not have the chance to register, has an opportunity to speak. If you did not preregister for this event, please press #2 on your phone, and we will take four individuals as they come in. Please press #2 on your phone if you did not preregister for this event. Hi, your line is open.

**Female Speaker:**

[0:21:25 inaudible] fracking wells. You still have to [0:21:31 inaudible] injection, but now, the fracking [0:21:36 inaudible]. The water is being used on crops. Now, [0:21:40 inaudible] industry found the fracking area nearby. I think it's actually when some of the ones that [0:21:49 inaudible] a thousand times [0:21:51 inaudible] open a public health school uranium. [0:21:56 inaudible]. Also, there's uranium downstream around Bakersfield downstream of [0:22:00 inaudible] that's coming from.

[0:22:06 inaudible] a lot of expenses it might [0:22:11 inaudible] before. Also, it's like endocrine disrupting chemicals, there's a couple of studies [0:22:23 inaudible] about it and one in 2019 just came out about carcinogenic chemicals around fracking wells and premature births and increased asthma. All right. Thanks.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Hi, your line is open.

**Barbara Barnie:**

Hello, my name is Barbara Barnie, and I am recently retired from City University of New York where I taught public health. I think that it's really important that CalGEM look at the science and the data, and develop regulations that are based on that science and that data. I think it's really important that we have a 2,500-foot buffer from schools, homes, day care centers, hospitals, and etcetera for existing wells.

There's lots of data that shows that the closer that you live to a well, the more likely you already get sick, and we know that most of these wells are located in black and brown communities where people already experience health disparities because of the environment and other exposures that they experience. I think it's important that we have a just transition as we've heard from people who earn a living from these kinds of projects, and so we need to have a just transition affecting fossil fuel workers and community members.

We have to protect both the workers and the community, and we need a moratorium on new drilling so that we can begin to move even faster toward renewable energy sources. Thank you very much.

**Candace:** Thank you. Hi, your line is open.

**Tina:** **[0:24:48 crosstalk]**. My name is Tina Odonon Calderon. **[0:24:55 inaudible]**, I'm deeply concerned about the state of my tribal land. Those lands that we hold sacred. I fear for the health and safety of our environment, as well as for the people, animals, and plants relative. Please do not allow any more oil drillings, especially do not allow any new projects.

It is time to protect the community, our lands, and the water, and to put health and safety of all lives before profit. I thank you for allowing me to raise my concerns.

**Candace:** Thank you. We are going to go back to registered attendees. I'm going to lower your hands now, but please don't hang up. It just means that you're no longer in the queue at this time. We will go back to unregistered attendees in just a moment. At this time, can Pauli Estabrook and Don Hightree, please press #2 on your phone. That's Pauli Estabrook and Don Hightree.

Once again, Pauli Estabrook and Don Hightree, please #2 on your phone to raise your hand. **[0:26:27 inaudible]** Ms. Estabrook or Ms. Hightree? Hi, your line is open. May I ask who's on the line? Your phone may be muted. John Armstrong and Kevin Ferreira, if you are here, please press #2 on your phone. That's John Armstrong and Kevin Ferreira. John Armstrong, your line is open.

**John Armstrong:** Hi, my name is John Armstrong. I work as the senior **[0:27:18 inaudible]** representative for Barry cooperation, specializing in air equality. My educational background is in biochemistry and environmental engineering. I'd like to thank CalGEM for the opportunity to be a part of this very important conversation. I have



worked in the oil industry for six years, and the last five as an environmental professional.

I believe it's important to recognize that the California oil industry is comprised of Californians who live in or near the communities in which they work, myself included.

My wife and I are raising our two children in Bakersfield and share the same concerns of running California's environment with others in this conversation. I want my family to live in a city with clean air and have access to abundant and clean water supplies and food, which is why I go to work every day to ensure we are doing everything in our power to minimize the environmental impact of our operations in contribute to a better energy independent tomorrow for all Californians.

The industry at large is committed to protecting public health in the environment and is showing this commitment repeatedly in the support to state programs designed to monitor and address the health and nominal impacts in affected communities in the state of [0:28:27 inaudible]. We've actively supported and participated in AB617, [0:28:32 inaudible] and California's [0:28:34 inaudible] program, to name just a few.

Additionally, we track and report our criteria pollution impact through annual emission inventories and our [0:28:42 inaudible] commissions through AB2588 inventories. The industry operates the most stringent air pollution regulations in the country. Part of these regulations include unmatched weekly [0:28:54 inaudible] repair programs, which meet the requirements of [0:28:58 inaudible] local area districts, [0:29:00 inaudible] and UPA.

We were afforded the opportunity to work with all parties, which means we're making an establishing scientifically supported and fact-based regulations, which will allow all of us to better understand the [0:29:12 inaudible] impacts from all sources in the actual risk reductions and environmental improvements gained from [0:29:18 inaudible] regulation affecting only one source site. Improvement of environmental conditions and health help outcomes in our communities. The additional regulations can only work if it changes actually reduce the impacts the regulated industry. The only way to ensure this outcome is to a rigorous, scientifically based assessment of any proposed changes. I'd like to thank CalGEM again for this opportunity.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Once again, Don Hightree and Kevin Ferrera, if you're on the line, please press #2 on your phone. Don Hightree and Kevin

Ferrera. Will Aviv Shifrin and Carroll Veness, please press #2 on your phones. Aviv Shifrin and Carroll Veness, please press #2 on your phones. Aviv Shifrin, your line is open.

**Aviv Shifrin:**

Hi, thank you. I would like to say the first thing is-- our top priority must be public health, no matter what, and if we do not establish a 2,500-foot buffer between any oil and gas wells and community, what are we gaining by sacrificing our public health? The main thing actually is oil and gas executive profits, and I think we can all agree that that is not the top priority. However, we do need to address the impact of lost jobs that what happens if we shut down this oil and gas wells, and I propose the state require oil and gas companies to keep all those workers that would be displaced hired to clean up the existing messes on idle oil and gas wells, including the ones that we would create during this process.

Furthermore, fossil fuels do not need to be a continuing part of California's economy, and we can actively choose right now to push ourselves along the part with more renewable energy resources, more renewables industry, and we can actively have that industry be in those same places where oil and gas wells are currently operating in the industry close to the community.

Those are my suggestions for CalGEM in terms of helping out the public health crisis caused by oil and gas wells who came 250 feet of communities, and at the same time making sure that has few workers as possible are not displaced and do not need to work extra hard just to have their livelihood. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Earlier, people-- Karen Mellanda Magoon and Kevin Ferrera. Also, Carroll Veness and Tania McMillan. Carroll Veness and Tania McMillan, Kevin Ferrera, or Karen Mellanda Magoon. Press #2 on your phone. Would Marshall Malini-- I apologize for mispronouncing people's names today. And Marco Aguilar, please press #2 on your phone. That's [0:33:38 inaudible] Malini and Marco Aguilar, please press #2 on your phone. Hi, your line is open.

**Marshall:**

My name is Marshall [0:33:54 inaudible]. I'm a physician. I've taken care of cancer patients in California for more than 20 years. My patients and relatives very often asks me what can be done to prevent cancer. They don't want their kids; they don't want their loved ones to experience what they're experiencing. The fact that oil and gas operations release pollutants and contaminants in air and water is indisputable. The fact that many chemicals are carcinogens are indisputable.

Studies show that people living within 2,500 feet of oil and gas extraction have higher rate of cancer. The studies show that people living within 500 feet of gas and oil extractions have more than eight times risk of cancer.

What I'm asking you as a physician and as a mother is to help us prevent what we cannot cure. Help us, enforce disclosure of all chemicals that they use in oil and gas operations. Make companies operating gas and oil extraction responsible to prove these chemicals are safe, not the other way around.

We shouldn't be responsible to do public studies to prove these cancers, these long-term diseases many years later. This is not prevention. This is causing disease that we cannot cure. Enforce setbacks of at least 2,500 feet from oil and gas drilling. More importantly, I think there has to be a dedicated healthcare expert in the permitting process.

Healthcare experts have to be involved in the permitting process. You can involve local health groups and departments. You have to create a dedicated CalGEM health advisory team if you really are interested in the public health. Thank you.

**Candace:** Marco Aguilar, your line is open.

**Marco Aguilar:** Hi, my name is Marco Aguilar. I am a union carpenter. I have a local **[0:35:56 inaudible]** in Long Beach. I've been working in oil refinery for 15 years. I believe the industry is a very important to me and my family, as it provides new way of living and checking opportunities for most of us in the inner city. I believe that the industry has come a long way from the last 15 years I've been working there, and with this new way of emissions, and thank you. Thank you for your time.

**Candace:** Thank you. At this time, once again, if you did not preregister for this event, please press #2 on your phone. You may have an opportunity to speak. Again, if you did not preregister-- if you did not have to enter ID that was an individual ID when you called in for the event, please press #2 on your phone.

**Barbara Rhine:** Hello.

**Candace:** Hi, your line is open. Yes, please go ahead.

**Barbara Rhine:** Does this mean I'm now able to **[0:37:19 inaudible]**?

**Candace:** Yes.

**Barbara Rhine:** This Barbara Rhine. I am on the steering committee of 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations, and I am the chair of that

group's legislative working group. I very much want to urge CalGEM to stand by the 2,500-foot limit. Revoke all of the new permits that have been granted since the COVID crisis began and not issue any more new permits for fracking projects until the rulemaking processes is over in 2021.

Now, I say this because it's time to not ignore the other crisis besides COVID which is the kind of crisis we're having unprecedented temperatures as I speak way higher than for this time of year. But most importantly, it's a risk to our human habitat, and it's time to switch to renewable fuel and not continue to use dirty fossil fuels.

The New York Times recently published an article about just how unprofitable and the beneficiary of shaky financing. The entire fracking industry is particularly in this time of low oil prices during COVID but also before. It's just no longer correct to invest in ridiculous fossil fuel schemes that we don't need, that are designed for quick profits before the industry is completely digested, which is on its way to continue to drive this over the tipping point beyond which there's no return for humanity from the climate crisis.

It's irresponsible in the extreme, and we really are grandmothers who care about future generations. We won't be there when the devastating damage is done, but we care about children, our grandchildren, and their children, and their grandchildren, and all children, and you should--

**Candace:**

Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead. Your line may be muted. Hi, your line is open. You may make your comments now. Please make sure that your individual phone isn't set to mute.

**Male Speaker:**

Hi, this [0:39:58 inaudible] from the Liberty Hill Foundation. I'm senior program manager in the Environmental Health and Justice Department, and a supporter of Stand L.A. I'm also a resident of District 15 in the city of Los Angeles. It has the most active oil wells in the entire city, with over 600 active oil wells. Over five million Californians are within one mile of an oil gas well. I'm one of those.

When I think the science behind the health impacts that are detrimental to the communities, we live within this space is pretty apparent. It's been noted. There have been studies. When I proposed with a 2,500-foot buffer, that STAND L.A. wants in the city is expanded to the entire state. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Hi, please go ahead. Your line is open.

**Jade:** My name is Jade [0:40:58 inaudible]. I'm a resident of Pasadena, California. I'm a member of my local chapter of the Sierra Club, but I'm speaking on my own behalf and also representing the various communities of California. That's the least that we can do for them is to require a 2,500-foot buffer around extraction activities and also requesting that CalGEM not issue any new fracking permits until new regulations are issued.

That's the least that we can do in light of all the things that are going on in the world right now. It's not too much to ask, a 2,500-foot barrier around the extraction activities preventing low income children from being exposed to such dangers. Thank you.

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

**Ron Miller:** Thank you. I'm Ron Miller, executive secretary of the L.A Orange County building, the construction trade council, and we're here today to bring to light that the oil and gas industry is one of the last great industries that provides middleclass jobs in the state of California. We have thousands of members that work in the oil and gas industry and they send their kids to college. They support the local economy. It supports thousands of service industry that supports the refineries in the oil and gas industry, and we need to continue to support the oil and gas industry because we still need oil.

Everybody likes to go to the airport and hop on the airplane. They run on oil. Everybody likes to have their streets paved. That takes oil. It's going to be a while before we're able to shut refineries down and go all green, but we're working both sides of the industry. We do the solar. We do the wind. We do the battery storage, and we do oil refineries, and it's a good thing the economy producing industry, so please slow down on this in light, just like everybody says, in the light of everything that's happening in the world today, we can't chase another industry out of California and hamper the local economy. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you. Once again, I'm going to lower your hands, but please don't hang up. We're just going to begin calling people who registered earlier again. Do not hang up. I just lowered your hand. You are still on the line and still able to make a comment in the future. Can Troy Notremjelow and Terri Moon, please press #2 on your phones. That's Troy Notremjelow and Terri Moon. Please press #2 on your phones.

Oh, my apologies, also Anneliese Anderle, if you could also press #2 on your phone. Terri Moon, your line is open.

**Terri Moon:**

Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this. The help of our communities and everyone depend on healthy planet, and we can't-- because fossil fuels and a healthy planet don't go together anymore. Maybe they do it because we needed sources of energy in the past, and we were willing to risk our health. Maybe we didn't understand then what we know now, but the science has shown us that fracking is not safe.

My younger sister lived in Arkansas, and [0:45:06 inaudible] and died from complications related to showering and drinking water that was contaminated from fracking chemicals, and it was not a pretty sight to watch that happen. She was just 51 years old. She had only been 51 for one week, actually. The health and safety of so many depend upon our clean drinking water, and fracking jeopardizes the health of that in the air.

We need to stop oil fracking. The price of oil shows it's not going to be a sustainable industry in the future, and it's definitely, fracking is definitely not a sustainable industry. There's far more that gets invested in that than it's reaped in rewards from it. It's an extractive industry. It's time for it to stop, and it's time to prioritize the health and wellbeing of people over profits. Now, this is the opportunity to speak.

**Candace:**

Hi, your line is open.

**Anneliese Anderle:**

Hi, good afternoon, this is Anneliese Anderle. I'm a registered petroleum engineer and retired from CalGEM. I had real concerns, particularly about a number of items. Number one is the number of idle wells that are under inventories that are either active or defunct operators. The current count is close to 35,000, and many of them are not going to be properly funded for plugging in abandonment, and there has to be some way of getting after operators to take care of these.

They're like ticking timebombs and if they're not taken care of, will become a state liability. In other words, the state taxpayers would have to pay for their abandonment and they can cost upwards to \$500,000 apiece. Our next item is taking another look at cyclic steam wells to evaluate the pace and integrity, perhaps every two years.

Currently, there is no pace and integrity test because they're simply given a summit survey because they have—[0:47:57 inaudible]. I would suggest pulling the downhole equipment and doing a pressure test every two years. There are really dangerous well because the cement that's cooked by the heat from the steam, that

is it becomes-- pace in cement becomes risky and reeky, and could contaminate ground waters.

Next is better notification of injected projects as currently there is a central no notification. The only requirement currently is that an ad run for one month in a local publication, and that is in the world that no one looks at anymore because no one gets the paper. I'm a subscriber to my local paper, but I don't get it except online, so I want to participate in these projects, have my voice heard, but I don't know when these projects are coming up because there's no notification--

**Candace:** Thank you. Would Patrick Bolio and Pauli Chu, please press #2 on your phone. Pauli Chu, please press #2 on your phone. Hi, your line is open.

**Patrick Bolio:** Hi, this is Patrick Bolio with the operating engineer's **[0:49:51 inaudible]**. I'm calling to make a comment in regards to the oil and gas industry and in support of all the workers in this industry. I think that we need to support these workers with the good high-paying jobs that are provided to the community for these workers and that generally speaking, we need to give them all the support we need, and we need to oppose the AB-345 legislation language that is going to hamper their jobs. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

**Candace:** Thank you. Would Laura Ramirez and Louis Panjami, please press #2 on your phones. Laura Ramirez and Louis Panjami. Pauli Chu, your line is open.

**Pauli Chu:** Hello?

**Candace:** Yes, please go ahead.

**Pauli Chu:** Okay, sorry, my phone died. My name is Pauli Chu, and I'm an **[0:51:10 inaudible]** in support of the 2,500-foot buffer, and I just want to speak in terms of racial inequity. I'm drawing on the extend of the research of scholar, Yvonne Eskenzi, who discovered that racial inequity is the problem of bad policy actually. It's often where it comes out in our society. To identify it, we can-- to address it, we can identify racial inequity, and we know that communities of color are the most affected by fossil fuel extraction and processing. Many other people have testified to this.

We can create anti-racist policy and the 2,500-foot setback buffer will do that. I ask you to please use your power to institute a more healthy, anti-racist policy, and also, this doesn't preclude a just transition for all workers involved in the oil and gas industries. I

know that we are as a society, as businesses are intelligent and creative, and can find alternative for everybody that works for everybody. Thank you so much for taking my comment, but I'm a little bit nervous. Bye. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Laura Ramirez, your line is open.

**Laura Ramirez:**

Hello, good morning, my name's Laura. I want to thank you for the opportunity I have today to speak. I think one of the big concerns I'm having now in my **[0:52:59 inaudible]** that these new policies will implement a lot of people losing their jobs. I think with everything that is going on at the moment, it's essential for workers to keep their jobs. Not only that, but if there's any way that this new policies could bring new opportunities, new jobs, not only that, but for you guys to be able to make it safer for the communities, for the Hispanic community and everyone in general, I do believe that it's very important that you guys have to figure out a way to have everyone in consideration because there is a lot of people that have become sick, they're getting asthma, so many health problems, and that I think that's very bad.

We have to think not only of others, obviously for the economic impact that it would have for families and the economy in general. It's a lot of people out without jobs. I think at the moment, right now, the health constraint is very important but also having jobs. There's a lot of people at the moment that are counting on one family member working and a couple of people bringing the income at home, and a lot of people are in debt.

A lot of people who don't have to pay rent, to buy food and essential first to have our jobs, to keep **[0:54:19 inaudible]** receiving the benefits and everything in general, so if there's any way you guys can make that happen, that would be great. Thank you for letting me speak today.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Guillermo Mendoza and Jose Ramirez, could you please press #2 on your phones? Guillermo Mendoza and Jose Ramirez, please press #2 on your phones. Again, that's Jose Ramirez and Guillermo Mendoza. Would Linda **[0:55:12 inaudible]** Knowles and Jasmine Vargas, please press #2 on your phones. Linda **[0:55:23 inaudible]** Knowles and Jasmine Vargas. Your line is open.

**Linda:**

Hi, my name is Linda **[0:55:38 inaudible]** Knowles, and I am a mother of two young children. One of whom has asthma. I'm here today to raise the voices of mothers and grandmothers who plead with you to protect California's children by using your regulatory authority to the fullest. I'm a member of Mothers Out Front, a



grassroot movement of mothers and others with tens of thousands of members across the country and states mobilizing for a lot of people living a healthy environment today and a livable climate tomorrow for all children.

We request that you will immediately implement a 2,500-foot health and safety buffer zone to protect the vulnerable communities who live, work, play, and breathe near toxic oil and gas drilling. This is essential to protect the health and safety of communities of color and low-income communities who disproportionately live in these areas.

Your number one responsibility is to protect the health and safety of Californians. How can you weigh their lives? The value of their lives versus the value of oil profits in the oil industry. It's time for a just transition for healthy, green, clean jobs for all, and a healthy, green, clean planet for all to live on.

Please do this for the mothers who are pregnant, for the mothers whose children are living in these communities, and for our children's future. We are counting on you to protect us all. Thank you. Oh, I have an extra time, okay. Or is that it? I want to continue if I have time. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Hi, your line is open.

**Jasmine Vargas:**

Hi, this is Jasmine Vargas. I first want to thank CalGEM for making the opportunity to speak on the very much needed and important conversation around the public health and safety of communities right now, but in reality, communities have never been safe from oil and gas extreme extraction, production, and exploitation that have led to climate crisis that we are in right now.

With the orientation that fights for the right people to say where our energy comes from, and I believe we should set the same standards here by setting a 2,500-foot setback from any oil and gas wells that are currently there stopping any new permits and revoking the 24 new fracking permits that you allowed. This is on your watch, and it's your responsibility to do something about it.

Offer ban fracking, close Aliso Canyon, and answer the call of the people for just transition for clean energy. The workers demand to have a future and just clean energy project and we're sure to make it happen.

**Candace:**

Thank you. At this time, once again, if you have not registered for the event, and you would like to make a comment, please press #2 on your phone. Again, if you have not registered for this event but

you would like to make a comment, please press #2 on your phone. Hi, your line is open. Please, go ahead. Your phone may be set to mute.

**David Broker:**

That is correct. Thank you so much. My name is David Broker. I'd like to register a comment in support of the 2,500-foot setback. In 2015, the California council on science and technology did a two-year **[0:59:30 inaudible]** study that looked at the issue. This is supposed to be a deciding factor on well stimulations only as they look at the numbers of chemicals that are in use no through the length of DOGGR because at the time, DOGGR end still is not tracking chemicals.

On average, something like three million pounds hydrofluoric acids, seven million pounds of hydrochloric acids, 80 pounds in **[0:59:59 inaudible]**, 40 pounds of ethylbenzene are in use in Los Angeles on a yearly basis, next to schools and homes. These are all air toxins that we do not want in our children's lungs. As a result, they expanded the study from "unconventional" drilling like fracking, **[1:00:16 inaudible]**.

It started looking at "conventional" drilling because they started seeing that the oil industry was using a lot of hydrofluoric acid when saying that they were doing routine well maintenance or cleaning out a well, prepping a well. Now, this requires no disclosure to the state. They also continue to go and find that these chemicals were in use in almost similar quantities in the same types of chemicals, toxic chemicals are being used but they're not calling it fracking, so it's not causing any sort of alarm in the community while they should be alarming those communities because these chemicals are in use.

Furthermore, these are environmental racist policies and it shows that further crack of racism because while they shutdown drilling in Beverly Hills, a few miles later in Central Los Angeles, these practices still continue. If they're not good for the children of Beverly Hills, they're not good the children of Los Angeles, and we have to have a human health buffer zone where we prioritize the health of all of our children.

The oil industry wants to drill in places where people aren't living, that's up to them, but in these communities, our children's health should come first. If we have shut down a three trillion dollar economy to protect public health or we relatively cleared the shell zones all the **[1:01:38 inaudible]** because it might kill someone, how on earth five years later, after these scientists said we need human health and safety buffer zones around where drilling operations are

happening because of elevated health impacts in the literature and the science is very clear, how on earth does this still continue?

The moral [1:01:57 inaudible] detriment our society until this setback is put in place. Thank you.

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

**Ron:** Hello.

**Candace:** Yes, please go ahead.

**Ron:** My name is Ron [1:02:23 inaudible]. I live in the middle of Ventura oilfield, and our house is about 150 feet from an active well, historically one of the highest producing wells in the field. [1:02:40 inaudible] concerns. One is that this is an industrial private sites that's going on in neighborhoods, and it should be monitored in the same way that-- that [1:02:57 inaudible] are monitored in the context of inside of an industrial building. Not some kind of regionalized [1:03:09 inaudible].

There should be active monitoring within 100 feet of a well, especially near residences. The oil fields are maintained using round up and probably a toxic mix of herbicides to keep the weeds down for fire suppression, and that kills the grass and so you have [1:03:33 inaudible] when the wind comes up, that soil, the dust laden with these herbicide particles, then go into the wind, so when the-- when it's dry and dusty, we have problems breathing here.

It's very irritating for the lungs. Those fields could be managed with low growing grasses and grazed by a sheep to manage them at low levels which would reduce the fire hazards to near zero, at least the same level as bare dirt. Also, increase the infiltration [1:04:17 inaudible] when it comes and decrease the toxic waste from around the wells going into our groundwater or into the streams and such. The life around the oil wells would also help with the microbes and the--

**Candace:** Thank you very much. Following individuals, please press #2 on your phones. Michael Williams and Anthony [1:04:58 inaudible]. Michael Williams and Anthony [1:05:04 inaudible]. Just as a reminder, we'll be calling individuals by name if they registered for the event, but when we open it up for those who did not register, I will only be taking the lines from people who do not have their registration information. Mr. Williams, your line is open.

**Michael Williams:** Hi, my name is Michael Williams. I'm a process engineering, supervisor at CRC. I've worked in oil and gas industry for about 15

years, and I'm part of the central workforce that are still being working and making sure we can provide energy to all of the Californians. My job is obviously very important to me. I have a wife. I have two young children, and I absolutely care about health and safety-- the health and safety of the environment.

I want to live in a safe environment, and I want my kids to as well, but these studies have shown that setbacks don't make any difference. They're not going to make anyone more healthy or safer. It's just going to take away people's jobs and export more California dollars to international energy that we probably don't know what's taking our money. I really ask CalGEM to let the science decide. Let the science be objective.

Include a wide range of environmental factors in your study, and include people who work in the oil industry in your study. If exposure is really that concerning, there should be plenty of people who work in the industry for 40, 50 years that we can talk to and ask them, see how their health is being affected by the excellent wages and excellent benefits, and how their communities have grown from them being able to be a part and contribute or really just ask CalGEM to be objective, let the science dictate the decisions that are made and look at all the data, not the just some of the biased information released from certain sites. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Anthony [1:07:37 inaudible], your line is open.

**Anthony:**

Hello, community members. My name is Anthony [1:07:42 inaudible], I'm a business agent for the [1:07:44 inaudible] Insulators in Northern California. Well, that presents approximately 750 members in 47 counties. Local 16 is strongly against AB-345. This bill is threatening jobs during a time when jobs are needed more than ever. These jobs can come with real wages, full healthcare benefits, and a pension. These are union jobs. That means every race, age, gender, and sexual orientation are treated equally.

These are middleclass jobs with people who typically come from underserved communities. Like you see the looting that's been taking place all over the country, you should understand that this has more to do with inequality and inequity, and it does with the most recent tragic event. If middleclass continues to shrink, there will be even more underserved community members. People without hope, without good paying jobs don't see a reason to follow the social contract and may have no opportunity.

Why follow the rules for a system that doesn't serve you? Since Reagan's administration, the US has outsourced many jobs overseas. Most jobs were sold for slave wages with unpaid working conditions and no regard for the environment whatsoever. Opportunity doesn't get missed. It simply goes somewhere else. We support you in your efforts to make California a greener state. We support better health for all.

We will gladly build you a new, greener facilities, service them, and make sure they're both right the first time. However, until we construct the new facilities, we cannot damage the existing ones economically. We would like a seat at the table during the discussion and ensure the future is delivered with the least collateral damage as possible. Now is not the time to pass legislation that will hurt our already [1:09:22 inaudible] economy. Thank you for your time.

**Candace:** Thank you. Sarah, did you wish to say a few words?

**Sarah Rubin:** Yes. Can you see me now?

**Candace:** Yes, we can.

**Sarah Rubin:** Can you hear me okay? Okay. Hi, everyone, this is Sarah Rubin, the leading moderator. I just wanted to do a reminder about the way public comment is working today. My apologies on few fronts: One, if it is confusing, so we want to apologize. We wanted to be with everyone in person, wanted to explain things in person, and it would probably be more clear. What we're trying... attempting to do today is we hear from a variety of voices.

For those of you who registered under the categories that we have in the registration page, which include community, environment, labor, industry, public health and others, we are rotating through the categories, and I had that this meeting what I asked Candace to do is to randomly pick people within each stakeholder group. I know some of you and I wouldn't want you meet the potential-- [1:10:45 inaudible] I have, or who I know, or don't to influence who is called at all.

I'm also sensitive that people who register sooner or register later shouldn't have any-- we just want everybody to speak. Candace is choosing people. I don't know who she's choosing. We hope we're going to get all of you. The other thing I want to apologize for is the clock. I'm the one trying to run the clock because our offices are shut down, and we're not allowed to go downtown. I'm borrowing my husband's computer which is very sensitive, and I'm-- not been

doing that because of the job with [1:11:26 inaudible], it keeps messing up, and I'm going to keep trying harder, and I'm sorry if the clock and other slides are annoying.

I wish we were just all in person [1:11:36 inaudible] and I apologize for this [1:11:39 inaudible]. Anyways, Candace, with that, I hope that helps some people who might have joined late and when they didn't hear me explain the way public comment works. We're rotating through the different stakeholder groups, and then also, we're going to [1:11:53 inaudible] on the phone because they realized not everybody has internet access. A lot of people have broadband challenges, especially if you are in a rural area, and we want to hear from you whether or not you have internet. We just want to hear what folks have to say.

Candace, with that, I'm going to have you get back to whoever's next on the queue.

**Candace:** Thank you, Sarah. Would David Barney Middleman and Mary Elizabeth, please press #2 on your phones. That's David Barney Middleman and Mary Elizabeth. Hi, your line is open.

**David Barney Middleman:** Hi, my name is David Barney Middleman. I'm [1:12:18 inaudible] meeting and about health impacts of oil and gas extraction facilities. I'm in support of the 2,500-foot safety buffer zone and around the facilities and the moratorium on permitting for new facilities. I also wanted to express my great respect for people who work in oil and gas industry, and I think the state should provide economic resources including guaranteeing better retirement benefits, and income as each workers and their communities [1:13:13 inaudible] just the way through oil and gas [1:13:15 inaudible] economy. Thanks very much.

**Candace:** Hi, Mary Elizabeth, your line is open.

**Mary Elizabeth:** Thank you. My name is Mary Elizabeth. I'm here to urge CalGEM to take immediate action to protect communities and families who live, work, play, worship, and go to school in their active oil wells, gas wells, and refineries across California, and establish a 2,500-foot barrier buffer. I am a longtime Sierra Club member, [1:13:49 inaudible] resident, science and math teacher, and registered environmental health specialist.

Helping environmental justice are heavy on my heart. Now is the time to say no to oil and gas laws and refineries within 2,500 feet places where people live, work, play, and go to school. Over a million live within a mile of oil and gas wells in areas of the highest

levels of pollution in the state and are communities of color and low income, which put these folks at a higher risk for negative health impacts, that not only affect their health, but their ability to work and learn.

The science is well established showing health impacts of common chemicals and emissions from fossil fuel production on adults and children. Evidence continues to accumulate showing as the distance increases, the negative health impact decrease such as premature deaths, asthma, and other respiratory illnesses that impact learning and attendance. Please make this monumental decision to create health buffers of 2,500 feet and a retroactive moratorium on new oil and gas wells until rulemaking is complete.

This is good planning. I live within a boundary of an AB-617 area established because of low income levels, education levels, and high polluting exposures. The [1:15:17 inaudible] screen data has helped put the focus where the focus is needed. Now is the time to stand up and protect the most venerable in our community. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you. Would Danny Runa and Sydney Pitcher, if you are available, please press #2 on your phones. That's Sydney Pitcher and Danny Runa.

**Sydney Pitcher:** Hello?

**Candace:** Yes, please go ahead.

**Sydney Pitcher:** Yeah, hi, can you hear me? My name is Sydney.

**Candace:** Yeah, very clear.

**Sydney Pitcher:** Awesome. Thanks so much for the opportunity to speak. I have a few things, and I'll try and make it quick. I've heard a couple of people speak about how they may have second thoughts about getting rid of oil drilling and stuff because it will destroy their jobs. What I have to say about that is I feel for those people, but I feel like with the fact that climate change and pollution have taken so much of the tools that we are going to have to find a way to transition from oil to cleaner energy, and what we should do is invest in maybe helping those people financially who maybe be out of job and helping them look for new jobs.

During the time that we're transitioning and they don't have a job in the oil industry anymore, maybe we should give like certain stimulus checks not so big to the point where they will just be collecting on appointment. But enough just to get them by so that they'll still be slightly pressured to still look for a new job. Because we can't just

keep continuing business as usual because pollution is taking a huge toll and there's so much mental and physical illness and so much racism. That's just horrible.

We cannot just take our only planet for granted. I'm really scared and horrified of the effects of climate change and what's going to happen in our future generations. The other thing that I think will be great is we cannot forget about what happened in 2010 with the deep-water horizon. I've watched a few documentaries. I don't understand everything, but just the fact that 11 workers died and there was so much coverups, and we have the biggest most destructive oil spill in history. I'm just absolutely appalled, and we cannot--

**Candace:** Thank you. Would Danny Runa, Christi Reed, and Ray Lawson, please press #2 on your phones. Danny Runa, Christi Reed, and Ray Lawson, press #2 on your phones. Hi, your line is open.

**Ray Lawson:** Hello.

**Candace:** Yes, please go ahead.

**Ray Lawson:** Hello, this is Ray Lawson. I'm a representative for the Carpenter's Union, and I represent the hundreds of oil and gas refinery workers throughout Southern California, and they feel that the safety is excellent. It's a 100% safe working in refineries. They've worked there for decades, and our refineries in Southern California is some of the most safest in the country. They don't come away with illnesses or sicknesses from working in this area and working in this environment.

This industry also provides hundreds of jobs, good paying jobs and careers where they will raise a family, send their children to college, be productive in society. It also provides a second chance career opportunities for hundreds of men and women in this field, and it also [1:19:43 inaudible] our state and local economy by manufacturing and producing our own gasoline and our own oil right here in the state of California. It keeps us strong. We, the Carpenter's Union, we oppose any legislations that will hamper [1:19:58 inaudible] jobs and our success in the oil and gas industry. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you. David Omayo and David Braun, please press #2 on your phones. That's David Omayo and David Braun, please press #2 on your phones.

**David Omayo:** Hello, my name is David Omayo and I need to emphasize that job opportunities and profits should never come at the expense of



people's health and wellbeing. They should go without saying and yet time after time, we've seen how the wellbeing of black and brown people have been affected by oil and gas companies, especially when oil and gas wells are often placed in low income communities.

A clear example of this would be in 2011, when more than 77% of oil and gas wells in California were placed in resident living below twice the poverty line and the oil communities with the majority of non-white population. As of 2019, more than 350,000 Californians live within 600 feet of unplugged wells which can release toxic emissions, inflammable gases from both their [1:21:20 inaudible] casing and the [1:21:21 inaudible] connected to them.

This unfortunately has always been a counterproductive business and cannot be allowed to proceed when black and brown communities are not benefitting from such. It's essential to create economy and profit around eco-friendly and green alternatives that won't displace the life of black and POC lives and the health of California residents in general. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Christi Reed, your line is open. Your phone may be set to mute.

**Christi Reed:**

Hi, thank you. My is name is Christi Reed, and I work for the Thermal Company. We're a small, independent oil and gas production company in Long Beach. I'm speaking on behalf of my company for the people that work for us. We have a diverse group of employees that have been with us for decades. Many with only high school education, and we provide great jobs for many different people in our company. Our focus is on health and safety is the most important aspect of our business and protecting our employees is our number one duty.

It's absolutely ridiculous to say that we do not care about the health of our workers or communities because we do. My company and I have been personally attacked by extremists with unfounded accusations of health impacts that have turned out to be attributable to other sources. Local production is sustainable production. Sustainability should mean using all the resources that we have available to us: oil, natural gas, wind, and solar sustainability and environmental protection does not mean exporting our energy sources and relying on foreign countries who don't care about environmental relations or human rights.

This puts us in a significant disadvantage and exposes the state to significant security risk. Shutting down oil and gas has economic ramifications. It not only negatively impacts the companies and their

thousands of employees, but also the tens or thousands of mineral and royalty [1:23:34 inaudible] in the state. A setback that denies the ability of those mineral to exercise their personal property rights is the taking of real property that will require the state to compensate those property owners. Thank you for your time. Appreciate the opportunity.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Once again, anyone who did not preregister for the event, please press #2 on your phone at this time. We will try and pick three or four of you who are not preregistered. Again, please press #2 on your phone if you did not register for the event, but would like to make a public comment. Hi, please go ahead, your line is open.

**Isaac:**

Hello, my name is Isaac. I'm speaking out against AB-345. I'm grateful and proud to help our California operators release roughly a third along the world that is consumed in our state every day. However, California can [1:24:45 inaudible] more. Two-thirds of our state oil is coming from the middle east in Central American countries where environmental regulations are nowhere close to what we have right here in California. In addition to the weak environmental regulations, this oil is coming in from foreign countries, transported via [1:25:04 inaudible] running on bunker fuel.

Our oil and natural gas right here in California is better for environment and better for all of the citizens of California who are all consumers. Any further regulations, the current moratorium or furthermore moratoriums will be nothing but increase our dependency on foreign oil. Further dependency on foreign oil increases the cost to all consumers which will have an increase on the citizens of California, reduces the state and local revenue taxes.

I wholeheartedly support the development of any new forms of energy. If you are truly concerned about the environment and the wellbeing of the citizens of California, I ask that you do not implement any further regulations, restrictions on our clean, safe, and efficient all-natural gas produced right here in California. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Hi, please go ahead, your line is open.

**Laura Rosenburg:**

Hello, this is Laura Rosenburg. Hi, there. This example of what happened in Pennsylvania [1:26:13 inaudible] expected the same thing. Bradford, Pennsylvania, the word of the [1:26:18 inaudible] turned white with chill in the water. The daughter got sick. Cows got

sick. Cows got rashes, actually. [1:26:26 inaudible] complaints of fracking wells like a blowout in six drinking water wells are polluted.

Also, the study in 2019 linking premature deaths, and asthma, and other respiratory problems to [1:26:42 inaudible] the fracking wells is also where studies of air pollution, linking to air pollution, and higher risk of severe complications from COVID-19.

**Candace:** Thank you very much.

**Sarah Rubin:** [1:27:11 inaudible].

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

**Male Speaker:** Hi, can you hear me?

**Candace:** Yes, we can.

**Tomas:** Hi, my name is Tomas [1:27:27 inaudible]. I'm Central California organizing manager for food and water action. I live here in the city of [1:27:33 inaudible] with my partner and our two young children. Both are under the age of three years old and we live right next to the Ventura oilfields that's within a mile of hundreds of oil wells. Our community is over 70% [1:27:45 inaudible], and according coronavirus, until we are in the 97th percentile for pesticide exposure and 93rd percentile for exposure to hazardous waste, and these are horrible statistics to face every day, especially if you're raising two young children whose lungs are not fully developed yet.

Today, I'm urging you to begin to undo this legacy of environment al racism by, one, stopping issuing new oil and gas permit. Two, ban fracking and other forms of dangerous extraction. Three, provide protection for workers, including resources to [1:28:19 inaudible] transition jobs between energy, conservation and [1:28:22 inaudible] mediation. And four, create a 2,500-foot buffer that people have been asking for today from oil and gas operations.

Finally, to deny all officer exemptions, especially the three that are currently being proposed here for Ventura County. [1:28:37 inaudible] exemption application by [1:28:38 inaudible] California poses the greatest danger in our community because applications show that the injection area is adjacent to several faults, including the big canyon and [1:28:48 inaudible], and as well as numerous other [1:28:52 inaudible] faults.

Studies have already shown wastewater injection is responsible for swarmed earthquakes here in California, specifically a 2,500 [1:29:00 inaudible] county. [1:29:02 inaudible] is the [1:29:03

**inaudible]** to be connected to the Ventura falls laying through highly populated area, including my neighborhood with a potentially-- a great destructive earthquake and even a Tsunami based on where the faults line.

You recently strengthened mission statement to protect the public health and safety while safeguarding the environment. All we are asking is that you do your job and follow through with this mission, and thank you for your time for public input today.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Once again, I'm clearing the hands, but please do not hang up. You're still on the line. With the following individuals, please press the #2 on your phones. Thomas Rebecky and Coba **[1:29:52 inaudible]**, please press #2. That's Thomas Rebecky and Coba **[1:30:01 inaudible]**. Again, Coba **[1:30:11 inaudible]** and Thomas Rebecky. Would Fatima **[1:30:20 inaudible]** or Zubair and Susan Noble, please press #2 on your phones. That's Fatima **[1:30:32 inaudible]** Zubair and Susan Noble, please press #2 on your phones.

**Susan Noble:**

Hello, this Susan Noble. I am speaking on behalf of the Western State Petroleum Association. We represent the companies that provide all of us, the transportation fuels we all need and use every day. We want to take a moment just to applaud CalGEM for providing a forum to hear from all voices who care about the health of our community. This puts nothing more important with these companies and the health and safety of the communities where the women and man of our industry work with and also raise their families.

Safety is a deep-rooted DNA in our industry, and I'd like to recognize the extraordinary level of commitment and expertise across the oil and gas industry. These folks work diligently on keeping our employees and communities safe. Safety is all through out every aspect of our industry operations and culture, and in California where our industry is the most heavily regulated in the world, we're proud of our track record, working productively and collaboratively with the various local state and federal entities that regulate all of the oil and gas operations.

We look forward to constructively working with CalGEM and all of you. Our industry also works with state lawmakers and community leaders to support data driven policies that protect our community. We care about the health and safety of our communities and we hope that we can have workgroups, civil dialog, collaboration. We can find ways to share our technical expertise. We believe in science and data driven solutions. We certainly are always going to agree on everything, but let's start with what we do agree upon, and that

everyone deserves to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and have access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you very much. Would James Buster and Justin Trung, please press #2 on your phone. James Buster and Justin Trung, please press #2 on your phone. Would Amanda Pentoha and Sandy [1:33:33 inaudible], please press #2 on your phones. Amanda Pentoha and Sandy [1:33:43 inaudible]. Justin, your line is open.

**Justin:** Hey, my name is Justin. Right now, we're going through this [1:33:56 inaudible] right now with the Black Lives Matter and all these, with the protesting going on, so as with Black Lives Matter. The public health knows that the EPA has gotten much worse with the climate crisis and those issues that matters, and we better affordable climate change if we're going to have a good, strong, climate for years and generations to come.

**Candace:** Thank you very much. Your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Sandy:** Hello, am I heard?

**Candace:** Yeah.

**Sandy:** Hi, greetings. My name is Sandy [1:34:55 inaudible]. I am the California Organizing Manager for Mothers Out Front, which is a growing national movement all over 35,000 mothers and others who advocate for swift, [1:35:04 inaudible] and just transition to clean, renewable energy.

There is overwhelming amount of scientific evidence making exposure to toxic chemicals from oil drilling to negative health outcomes including nausea, headaches, asthma, lung, and heart disease those effects and more. The need for step back is more urgent that ever in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent Harvard research study founded that the personal living for decades encountered high levels of fine, particulate matters has an 8% increase rate of deaths in the coronavirus and someone in a region with one unit left of the five-particulate pollution.

This means that to protect California through COVID-19, we must reduce the pollution they're supposed to. On top of that, gas and oil drilling are concentrated in low income communities of color with some of the worst air pollution in the nation. As others who want CalGEM to have to step up now and establish science-based setbacks when it's to protect public health in the environment from the oil and gas extraction, we [1:35:58 inaudible] and approve that a healthy economy and a clean environment are not mutually exclusive.

California remains a leader in growing its renewable energy and electric transportation sectors. The clean energy sector already provides family support, supporting jobs in California, [1:36:12 inaudible] jobs in the [1:36:12 inaudible] of your industry by 5 to 1. We deserve a 2,500-foot health and safety buffer between oil and gas sites and homes, hospitals, schools, churches, and other sensitive land uses. Our communities deserve a clean and healthy place to live, work, eat, play, and pray. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you very much. Would David Page and Don Moruska, please press #2 on your phones. Don Moruska and David Page, please press #2 on your phones. Hi, your line is open.

**David Page:** Hi, thank you. I'm David Page. I'm a retired member of SCIU local 10:1. I wanted to comment about the people calling in about jobs and supporting the workers, and my heart goes out to these people. I think it's time we tell them the truth. Governments, oil companies, and even the unions have been leading them down the wrong path to think that these jobs that they have are going to be permanent and good-paying, and provide great benefits forever. The truth is they're more like temp jobs. The reason is because of the health problems.

The Newsweek Magazine had article last November saying that 200,000 Americans die each year because of air pollution. The writings on the wall, whose jobs are not going to continue-- what I'm recommending is that you have setbacks that are even further that what you're proposing, so that we keep oil and natural gas underground permanently. We can't afford to have people dying at that rate without thinking about how to do it better.

We can move to wind and solar provide jobs that way. Make a plan, implement it, and keep these, my brothers, and sisters in good jobs from now forward. Thank you very much.

**Candace:** Thank you. [1:38:51 inaudible] we called earlier to make sure we're not missing anyone. Karen Mellanda Magoon and Don Hightree, please press #2 on your phones. Karen Mellanda Magoon and Don Hightree, please press #2 on your phones. Would Sandy Emerson and Maria [1:39:29 inaudible], please press #2 on your phones. Sandy Emerson and Maria [1:39:39 inaudible]. Hi, Maria, you're on the line. Please go ahead.

**Maria:** Good afternoon. My name is Maria, and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My husband has been working for the oil and gas industry for 20 years. His job has helped our family, send our kids to college, get healthcare, and food on our

table. I am worried that maybe 3, 4, 5 would lead to the elimination of thousands of jobs in California, including my husband. Even worse, during the current global pandemic and the resulting global recession.

At this point in time, we should be avoiding losing jobs. I totally agree that oil companies should bend their rules to keep people safe, but not forcing oil companies to shut down or lay people off. Because every oil and gas worker is a family that depends on the salary for survival, and in my case, I have been laid off. My mother-in-law and three children depend on my husband's income, and like myself, there are a lot of families in the same situation. Please help our oil and gas workers. Thank you.

**Candace:** Melinda [1:41:04 inaudible] and Armando Flores, please press #2 on your phones. Linda Walldrop and Armando Flores. Your line is opened. Please go ahead.

**Armando Flores:** Good afternoon. My name is Armando Flores, with the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, VICA. We represent over 400 business and nonprofits in San Fernando Valley and all throughout the Southern California region. As a business organization, we have seen firsthand, the impact the current economic crisis has had on business and workers.

Business have struggled to stay alive and many are struggling to re-open as they have undergone huge financial hits leaving many who were employed by those businesses without work. This is why we urge you to consider rules and regulations that do not further negatively impact workers, businesses, and the economy. As we continue to work towards achieving our climate goals, we need to ensure that we have an energy portfolio that includes all forms of energy, including oil and gas.

These industries are already heavily regulated and provide a significant number of jobs which in turn boost our economy. Additional regulations will only further increase our dependence on foreign oil, will leave more workers without a job, and impede on the recovery of our economy. We urge you to continue working with the oil and gas industry as they provide employment expertise and insights for consideration and new rulemaking. Thank you.

**Candace:** Hi, Linda, please go ahead. Your line is open.

**Linda:** Hello, my name is Linda Walldrop. I'm a retired public library manager, and a member of Greenpeace. I would like to urge you to create the 2,500-foot buffer zones between oil and gas activities and

where people, live, work, and go to school. I would also like to urge you to end oil drilling in drinking water supplies area, and in high fire danger zone.

Thirdly, I'd like to ask you to limit the [1:43:22 inaudible] of hazardous materials to communities. As a long time [1:43:27 inaudible] at the John Muir historic site in Martinez, I welcome visitors from all around the estate. I know that Californians care deeply about the kind of environment in which they live, work, and where their children attend school. Thank you very much for this opportunity to share my views.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Once again, anyone who did not preregister and would like to give a comment, please press #2 on your telephone. Again, if you did not register but would like to give a comment, please press #2 on your phone. Hey, please, go ahead. Your phone may be set to mute.

**Female Speaker:**

Thank you. [1:44:34 inaudible] I am a Sierra Club member, but I'm speaking as an individual, and there are a couple of issues around flaring that I'm concerned about. We have unlimited 365/24 hours a day flaring in many areas where there's oil production, and it's a climate issue, produces greenhouse gas and pollution, and heat, so we would like to see no more flaring allowed except for a real emergency.

Black water also is concerned with groundwater and aquifer contamination, and also roundup is sprayed all around the oil facilities and it can remain for years in the soils and the soils then are very dry and dusty, and they blow off, and people that live and work in the surrounding areas are at risk from those pollutants from the roundup, so I think that needs to be addressed, and also perhaps putting in some low-growing native plant or other drought tolerant ground covers could be effective at keeping down some of that dust as well as being helpful for the climate and temperature and holding in of the water when it does fall. Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Your line is open. Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead. Your phone might be set to mute. I don't think you have a comment. You were very quiet. We couldn't hear you.

**Jessica Drone:**

My name is Jessica Drone. I represent the [1:46:49 inaudible], which is the first nation of Los Angeles county, and I am very concerned because those who have not lived here prior to the 1800s don't understand the damage that has been done to our soil which is why we have raise beds today, and it's never a question of if an oil



line breaks but when, so I urge us to do better, to find better ways to-- for those who feel that they can't put their families, we can try things like community gardening and ways of pulling together the community to help each other and as far as going on airplanes is concerned, that's not a necessity as we've seen with the pandemic, we've been able to communicate just fine to things like Zoom and phone. Thank you.

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

**Male Speaker:** Hi, everyone, my name is [1:47:50 inaudible]. I'm a community member here in East Bakersfield, and I like to bring attention and hopefully some action to the 2,500-foot setback that's needed in the community to protect public health. To me, it feels confusing and insulting to take part in a process in which the [1:48:12 inaudible]-- please convince me that your life is worth it. Please convince me that your livelihood is important enough for me to make change for you.

[1:48:26 inaudible] residents have the dirtiest air from the stationery sources of PM 2.5. More than half of that comes from oil companies, and TM 2.5 has been linked to the destruction of many things within the human body, including the lowering of IQ point, and it's just-- it's not worth it. It's not worth it for my health, and it's not worth it for my community to suffer in this way. We need better protection. Thank you.

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

**Justin Cho** Hello?

**Candace:** Yeah. Please go ahead.

**Justin:** Hi, my name is Justin Cho. I work with [1:49:14 inaudible] here in L.A, and I'd like to support the 2,500-foot [1:49:18 inaudible] oil and gas site and homes and hospitals. We all know that living near active oil and gas extraction sites collectively cost [1:49:26 inaudible]. But also, the negative exposure for birth defects, lung diseases, headaches, asthma, nausea, all the things that we talk about, and they can't be overlooked.

I also want to address some of the audience members that have been talking about the controlled spread from the job's perspective. In this situation, the government need to step in and help fossil fuel workers. It's the right thing to do. Workers in the fossil fuel industry aren't responsible for climate change. They've been told what to do by the cooperate leaders who themselves are denying the existence

of climate change, so adjustments to the system was essential or coming diversification into long-term [1:50:07 inaudible].

They have to find an economic alternative jobs. It's difficult because most of the workers don't have highly specialized skills, so we need to have the government help fund training programs in the location for the new jobs essentially to what both the economic disaster and social [1:50:26 inaudible] company unemployment. It's also a smart political move. If politicians want to reduce [1:50:33 inaudible] emission, they need to rebuild a robust protocol coercion.

It's difficult to do without the fossil fuel workers. [1:50:40 inaudible] and [1:50:43 inaudible] to know. This is why the government should be refocusing efforts on immediate job creation training so they can compete for jobs in varying industries and clean energy installations. In addition, the government should be offering generous payroll subsidies to local companies that hire fossil fuel workers who are originally laid off or transitioning.

[1:51:05 inaudible] need to have general's government support. We really need to have them decrease their production if we need to [1:51:13 inaudible] the climate disruption. Our business model is fundamentally compatible with low carbon economy.

**Candace:** Thank you very much. Do you wish to provide additional comments?

**Female Speaker:** Sorry, [1:51:41 inaudible]

**Candace:** Did you wish to speak about extending the meeting? I think your phone might be muted, sir. We'll just take a few more calls [0:52:07 inaudible]. We're going to go back to, with those registered attendees. I'm going to lower people's hands, so again, you're not being disconnected. I'm just lowering your hand so you can go back to our list. Looking for Scott Murray and Alice Telfayoung. Scott Murray and Alice Telfayoung, please press #2 on your phones. Hi, your line is open, please go ahead.

**Scott Murray:** Hi, my name is Scott Murray, and I live in San Diego. I'm a public policy co-chair at San Diego 350 and the climate reality leader. Today, I'm asking CalGEM to prioritize Californian's health and safety and not oil industry interest in requiring health and safety buffer. Burning fossil fuels causes climate change which harms California through increase drought, wildfires, and extreme rainfall. Extreme heat alone kills more people than any other extreme weather event.

Besides the climate change, results of burning oil and gas, extraction, and transportation harm Californians through increase

cancer rate, asthma, and other health problems. It isn't a mystery that carcinogens and particulate matter cause health problems to those exposed to them despite what's so-called industry insiders might check. Asthma is the number reason for absenteeism in California schools, and that could have a lifelong effect on economic opportunities.

Fossil fuel infrastructure disproportionately harms the health of minority communities. The science is clear. It causes early death, so it's fixing that overly burdensome since we can't fix it? There's no reason to harm innocent people because of excuses of like jobs. There are lots of opportunities for clean energy jobs that don't harm the poorest and minority populations in California.

There are lots of reasons people are upset right now about police brutality and over policing, but systematic racism and lack of opportunity, including pollution from fossil fuels adds to that angle. Do we really need to trade a job to harm the people that are innocent? No, that's a false choice. People can have high-paying careers in renewable energy and in cleaning up the pollution from fossil fuel industry, including a backlog of the abandoned wells, and we can grow our economy, so we can protect people's health and address climate change and grow the economy and protect jobs.

I'd like to urge government, [1:54:52 inaudible] in CalGEM to create a healthy and safety buffer. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Hi, Sarah.

**Sarah Rubin:**

Hi. Hi, everyone. Thanks again for hanging in with us. I know it's a lot of time to spend on the phone on the computer. Officially, I'm leaving-- scheduled to end at 3PM. We are going to go-- I'm going to check in 45 minutes from now to see how we're doing. We're hoping to get as many of you as possible. We do have to end at 4 'o clock. We don't have the ability to have the service pass four.

We're going to get as many people as we can. We want to hear from you. I would like to assure everybody that whether you speak in a virtual townhall like this one or if you already spoke as an in-person meeting, or if you sent in an email, it's of equal weight.

Unfortunately, if we don't get to you today, we highly encourage you to send an email or use the survey, or use the instant polling tool. Every way to communicate has the exact same weight as the other.

I just want to make sure everyone else is-- Supervisor Ntuk said that at the beginning of this, no idea is too small and no idea is too big,

and so just because say we hear of a good idea three times versus 30 times, or 300, they all will get analyzed at the same level and we are going to all of the comments that you provide to us and very carefully, so thanks again, and I don't want to take any more of this time, so we can get right back to hearing you all, and Candace, I'll hand things back to you.

**Candace:** Thanks, Sarah. Looking for Lawrence Thanos and P Anthony Thomas. Please press #2 on your phones. That's Lawrence Thanos and P Anthony Thomas, press #2 on your phones. Lawrence, your line is open.

**Lawrence:** This is Lawrence Thanos. I'm a citizen of Hayward California, and I'd like to see that California is leading the country, paying attention to climate change, the science, and start phasing down all fossil fuel, extraction, and then transitioning to renewable fuels. Also, and orderly just transition for-- to be put in place for our workers, and then also to make this short, I'll just say that I'll like to support your 2,500-foot buffer zone for all those public health reasons that have already been stated here today. Thank you very much.

**Candace:** Thank you. And P Anthony Thomas, can you please press #2 on your phone? Melanie Collin, please press #2. Manuel [1:58:21 inaudible], please press #2 on your phone. Melanie Collin and Manuel Kunya, please press #2 on your phone. Melanie, your line your open.

**Melanie:** Hi, good afternoon, all. My name is Melanie Collin. I'm a lifelong activist here in Southern California. Today, would like to talk to all of us in light of all of the difficulties our state is facing. We need to stand for each other. We need to be there for each other. But before we can do that, right now, we have some serious issues, including being in southern California, being the number one polluted air in the United states.

Bearing this in mind, I would like to support all frontline communities here, especially in Southern California, and call, please stand up for banning fracking and rolling back the permits that are being caused to cause fracking. We need 2,500-foot setbacks, we need a clear transition to renewable energies with protection for workers. We need immediately to ban modified hydrofluoric acid into refineries in Southern California which should there another accident since there was one in 2015, could destroy many lives and hurt many people.

I thank you for listening today. I am hoping that CalGEM understands how important it is to stand and I hope you can-- thank you, Stand L.A., thank you Sierra Club of whom I've been a member

for many years. Thank you, Food and Water Watch, and thank you all who are on the phone today. Bye-bye.

**Candace:**

Your line is open. Please go ahead. Your phone may be set to mute. Your phone may be muted, but your line is open here. Do you have a comment? Please go ahead. We move on to the next people on our list. Therese Marianne and Glen Dolph. Please #2 on your phones. Therese Marianne and Glen Dolph. Your line is open. Please, go ahead.

**Glen Dolph:**

I'm sorry, I started too soon. My name is Glen Dolph. I'm a representative of IBEW Local 428, Bakersfield, California. We definitely are strongly opposed to AB-345. You probably and will hear quite a bit more from others in the labor industry that's going to talk about that, and what their stand is and why I don't think I need to repeat that.

I'll talk a little bit about me. I've represented people out in the oil fields. I've been out. I've looked at those companies. I've looked how they operate, and what comes to construction and maintenance, I haven't seen anybody that actually tries harder to actually make a difference in these days. I know what the reputation used to be. I used to be out there, but it's not that way anymore.

**[2:02:56 inaudible]** County has some of the worst air in the country. That's absolutely true: PM 10, PM 5, PM 2.5. The oil fields aren't

**[2:03:08 inaudible]** are not actually major contribution to that. It's actually agriculture, and mobile and stationery diesel engines. Anybody that wants to shutdown fossil fuels for burning, I'm all for it. I've been involved with environmentalism, and I'm beating myself since the '70s. In those days, you didn't listen to everybody else on the internet that exist. You studied the problem and you looked at what's going to happen, what you need to do.

Fossil fuels in the conservation of fossil fuels for this is, for the most part, a smoke screen. Fossil fuels do come from oil wells, and yes, we definitely need to shut down fossil fuels that take a look at everything around you that's made from oil.

**Candace:**

Thanks very much. Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Therese:**

Hi, I'm Therese **[2:04:15 inaudible]** resources. I am speaking on behalf of myself. Thank you for your time to speak and provide comment. I have worked as an environmental health and safety professional in the oil and gas business for over ten years, and I know firsthand the step operators take to provide a healthy and safe environment for workers, the communities we operate and the

environment. We work hard to strive beyond mere compliance and ensure our operations are safe.

We live in the communities we operate. Our families live here, and we have a vested interest in ensuring our communities are safe and protected. Each day this industry provides us the energy we need locally to care for our families and support our communities. We want to help full environment also. In California, we operate under some of the strictest regulations in the country. Additional regulation without factual backing does not make these operations safe. Regulation needs to be fair and back by data analysis.

We do as an industry because it's our duty and we care to operate safely. Therefore, I'm not for more stringent policies. Energy production needs to stay in California for the betterment of us all and can continue to do so safely under our current stringent regulations. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to working with CalGEM in this process.

**Candace:**

Thanks very much. Following people, please press #2 on your phones, Wendy Rain. Patrice Sutton, Mark Blubell, **[2:06:25 inaudible]**, Jimmy Slough. Please press #2 on your phones. Park Kandasamy, press #2 on your phone. Ms. Rain, your line is open.

**Wendy:**

Hi, my name's Wendy Rain. I'm a physician and public health professional. I spent 30 years caring for low income communities. I'm a data nerd and I've ran hundreds of studies on air pollution, oil, and gas production. If you look at the science at 2,500-foot setback is necessary, but it would not protect-- it would not provide the complete protection that we're looking for because it will only will protect again high concentration of V-techs chemicals.

There are numerous studies showing increased cancer, heart disease, average birth outcomes and excess hospitalizations up to a radius of 10 miles. Oil and gas operations in that ultra-fine particulates and nitrogen oxide which are known to cause **[2:07:46 inaudible]** other conditions which already exist in hazardous levels in the central valleys in Southern California. It doesn't matter what percentage of the total. More emissions cause more harm.

Now, at climate impacts which get **[2:07:58 inaudible]** in the same low-income communities of color when most drilling occurs. The argument that we just import dirty oil from elsewhere ignores the decrease in demand that will come as California meets its chronicles. This is COVID-19 causes more harm in a nursing home than in the middle of the sierras. Vulnerability to oil and gas impacts

varies. Each community is different. Each new well has more pollution and the picture changes over time.

That's why each permit must have its own Sequa and a threshold to be established using [2:08:27 inaudible] virus screen and [2:08:28 inaudible] index, so that when unavoidable health impacts would occur in a highly vulnerable community, a permit would be denied. CalGEM must have discretionary power to do so, but as you've seen in the past year, it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. We need mandatory oversight permitting by state offices of environmental health hazard assessment and health equity, and an immediate moratorium on permitting until such oversight is established and health rules are in place.

**Candace:** Mark Bluebell, your line is open. Please, go ahead. Your phone may be set to mute.

**Mark:** Hello, my name is Mark Bluebell, good afternoon. I'm a representative for the [2:09:16 inaudible] local [2:09:18 inaudible] 16 in Norther California. I represent approximately 750 union brothers and sisters. You heard this before, but all the building craps, trades offer good middleclass wages, medical benefits, coverage, pension wage, and benefits. But they aren't jobs or careers, and you can't just throw those and away and start something new. It's a 4 to 5-year apprenticeship program our members go through as well as on the job paid training.

These are not low skill jobs that someone can just transition off of and make the same wages and benefits somewhere else. No stimulus money will help us there. Many of these members work safely in the oil industry. California refineries operate in a cleanest manner of any state in the country. I'm not at all opposed to requiring monitoring and frack inspections. Accurate data analysts should drive the regulations.

I'm strongly opposed to any regulations that would force the closure of any existing refinery of extracting in California. All these jobs done in other places are dirtier than in California. At that being said, this is bad for the economy and bad for workers. I strongly oppose AB-345. Thank you.

**Candace:** Your line is open.

**Patrice:** Hi, I'm Patrice [2:10:49 inaudible], and for the past 35 years, I've conducted research and published extensively on the health impacts of environmentally chemicals, working as a scientist for the California Department of Public Health, and the ECSS program on

reproductive health in the environment. I'm speaking on behalf of San Francisco Bay Area, Divisions for Social Responsibility.

We call on you to take prompt and effective action to mitigate harmful exposure to toxic chemicals for the more 850,000 people who live within 2,500 feet of an active oil well in California. We know that many of the chemicals used in oil and gas extraction cause cancer and reproductive health impacts. May other testing complete or no health data, and their safety cannot be assumed.

I worked at ECSS and the research of many other academic scientists demonstrate unequivocally the developmental exposure to toxic chemicals even at low levels [2:11:44 inaudible] outcomes. There is no safe level of exposure to many toxic chemicals. In response to the science, reproductive health professionals in the US and around the world have said loud and clear that preventing exposure to toxic chemicals is essential to ensuring healthy pregnancies, healthy children, and future generations.

The people who are harmed by the chemicals [2:12:08 inaudible] oil and gas extractions are also more likely to be people who face so many other environmental threats. We ask that you start perpetuating this injustice by aligning CalGEM's actions with a state of priority of public health safety and the environment. We call on you to implement physical setbacks of at least 2,500 feet, fully disclose the toxicity and the uses of all the chemicals involved, increase exposure monitoring, and create a dedicated CalGEM health advisory group while you simultaneously phased out the climate threatening operations. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Thanks very much. Would Jimmy Slough, Rupork Kandasamy, Willma Garby, Debra Shiffrin, and P Anthony Thomas, please press #2 on your phones. That's Jimmy Slough, Rupork Kandasamy, Wilma Garby, Debra Shiffrin, and P Anthony Thomas, please press #2 on your phones. You line is open. Please go ahead.

**Male Speaker:**

Good afternoon. First, I would like to thank CalGEM and my deep appreciation to the supervisor and also Ms. Ruben holding these many, many, too many meetings to allow for many to express themselves. Let me be very clear, many have stated about studies, but none have stated who has done the peer review. Peer review, obviously speaks to who has made the study and their conclusions.

My industry and my workplace looks like California. It's diverse. It's Latinos. It's African Americans. It's Asians. It's veterans. What I would simply say as a person who represents the California anything petroleum association, is one that what is it going to take for us to



have an equitable energy portfolio? Number one. Number two, what is it going to take for us to have a dialogue that goes on the other side? It seems like they wanted one way, and one way only, and that is, it's going to be fossil fuels or nothing, or I should say it should be renewables or nothing.

When both can co-exists, and they should co-exist, and in my view, ladies and gentlemen, give me the time, what're you going to do with these employees and what do you want to do to backseat the revenue lost that will happen if you in fact obliterate the oil and natural gas industry. Again, I want to thank CalGEM for their upfront process, and wish everyone well. Thank you very much.

**Candace:** Thank you. Once again, are Wilma Garby, Debris Shiffrin, Jimmy Slough or Rupork Kandasamy available? Please press #2 on your phones. In the interim, we would like to go back to asking anyone who did not preregister to also please press #2 on your phones. And if you did not preregister and you would like to make a public comment, please press #2 on your phone at this time. Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Female Speaker:** Well, did you see my previous comment? This is [2:15:46 inaudible]. Well--

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

**Rudy:** Hello, can you hear me?

**Candace:** Yes.

**Rudy:** Hi, this Rudy Rodriguez, 46-year member of local 250 [2:16:20 inaudible]. Over 6,000 members strong, and a proposed ordinance will put the oil and gas industry in the L.A County [2:16:28 inaudible] out of business, not to mention the thousands of good-paying jobs-- [2:16:33 inaudible] that would go away. I can't even begin to tell you what the oil and gas industry have done for me and family. I have put three kids through college, all with very successful careers.

I worked in refinery for over 30 years. To me, it's a win-win situation with myself and so many other members like me, so thank you very much for your time. Everybody stay safe, stay healthy. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thanks very much. Again, if anyone did not preregister and you would like to make a comment, press #2 on your phone at this time. Please go ahead, your line is open.

**Male Speaker:** Hi, I'm [2:17:24 inaudible]. I'm an advocate for facts and science. Oil and gas extraction in California is highly regulated and safe but the

fact is that by imposing setbacks will only chase jobs and [2:17:38 inaudible] standards of the oil and gas we use while paying for [2:17:42 inaudible], this would endanger our country's national security further.

Oil and gas extraction is a minor contributor to asthma where pollution, if anything, grandest of the wherever, other controlled practices, evidence people [2:17:55 inaudible] and causing all-- all the source, so having setbacks is not going to do any good to our community. As a matter of fact, poverty is known to be little malnutrition, less education, poor health, worse environment, and you can check difference between the China versus we've been [2:18:11 inaudible] for [2:18:12 inaudible].

All the issues brought by the [2:18:15 inaudible] in general, it's not that due to poverty, so it's not due to oil and gas [2:18:19 inaudible], but to all of the-- for a fact that including poverty, then it comes naturally, but having setbacks, you're only going to take away jobs, benefits, making people [2:18:29 inaudible] more expensive, increase the trading balance, and basically bring more poverty and as such, it's actually going to increase ratio inequalities and [2:18:37 inaudible] communities, unlike what people are saying.

If people want to initiate their energy condition and they want it and they can afford it, that's great for them, and I encourage them to do so, but [2:18:49 inaudible] should have the freedom to pick what energy they want to use because cheap, reliable energy is critical to everyone's right, and the capability to access food, health education, wealth, and to have wellbeing in general. I brought no one setbacks. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thank you. Your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Michael Dominic:** Hello. Can you hear me?

**Candace:** Yes.

**Michael Dominic:** Great. Thank you so much. My name is Michael Dominic. I'm the coach here at the Los Angeles [2:19:29 inaudible] of the Climate Reality projects, former Vice President, Al Gore's organization. I am here to urge Governor Newsom and CalGEM to take immediate actions to protect our communities and families who live, work, go to school and even worship in the shadow of active oil wells and other fossil fuel industry infrastructures.

On this call, we're hearing how fossil fuel corporations operate. They weed themselves into the fabric of the economy of our communities leaving some of our workers dependent on jobs that

are killing them and their families, pitting those of us to advocate for a clean, safe, healthy, sustainable environment, and those who want to provide for their families. This is shameful and we must see through this insidious technic.

Over five million Californians live within one mile of an oil or gas well. The backyard for countless homeschool hospitals and other sensitive sites is an oil and gas well or other fuel industry infrastructure. The science behind the health impacts of the chemicals and emissions from fossil fuel production is clear, linking how close you live to an oil or gas well to a host of health impacts, cancer premature mortality, asthma, and other respiratory illnesses.

This is an issue of equity and justice. Our frontline off and marginalized often low-income communities-- communities of color are that much more susceptible to these harmful health impacts because these neighborhoods are more likely to house all these fossil fuel industry infrastructure. Climate Times made it clear we must win ourselves off of fossil fuels as quickly as possible if there is to be any hope of leading our children in the generations to come, a habitable planet.

We must transition to clean renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Industries that are growing jobs at a much higher rate than anything in the fossil fuel industry. We raise our voices today, demanding a 2,500-foot setback between oil and gas operations and the places where people live, work, and learn. We appeal to U.S policy makers that you prioritize community health and safety. We have an opportunity to forge a just and equitable transition driven by healthy jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century resulting in clean air and water in our communities. That is what creating a better--

**Candace:**

--very much. Your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Janet:**

Hi, my name is Janet [2:21:41 inaudible], and originally, I just signed the petition and they said if I wanted to give a comment, so I say why not. Two-and-a-half hours later, I agree with the previous speaker, whatever he says I doubled down on that. This is the time that we need to readjust our thinking and look at the future in a new—with new eyes.

The pollutions throughout the world has been lessened dramatically. We can't go back to the way it was. We need to do everything we can, and in every way to clean up this climate, on the land, the air, the sea. I firmly believe that 2,500-foot limit or barrier is advisable. We need to have green energy, solar energy, renewable energy. We can't go back to the way things were. If we haven't

learned anything from this global pandemic, then civilization doesn't have much to look forward to.

I'm a mother, grandmother, and it's really-- this is-- According to some environmentalist, this is the 59<sup>th</sup> minute of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, and we really need to take that under consideration, and I disagree with Governor Newsom on his fracking policy. I was very upset when I heard that this month. Thank you for listening and everyone, have a good day.

**Candace:**

Thanks very much. The following people, if you're here, please press #2 on your phones. Katrina Madison, Marybeth [2:23:42 inaudible] Guadalupe Filolobus, Debra Sheffrin, and Gram Hamilton, and Mark [2:24:00 inaudible]. Press #2 on your phones. Gram Hamilton, Mark [2:24:11 inaudible], Katrina Madison, just press #2 on your phones. Hi, your line is open.

**Mary Ann:**

Good afternoon, my name is Mary Ann. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am the mother of a worker on the oil industry. I just would like you to keep in mind that the oil industry supports a lot of families and not just the families. They improve the economy. They affect a lot of people. Especially in these time, with this really delicate situation, we have to improve the economy in other to get up again. I'm not against getting safety issues to address, but the intentions were fine, but we need to find a good solution for this.

It's not just [2:25:26 inaudible] to move the oil industry. We have to be real and check the human and economic consequences in those decisions. I would say that we shouldn't hurt the economy just now in this situation. A lot of people is hoping to have a job, and it's not easy to find jobs. I don't think by now this is a good situation to address in that way. Thank you. I hope you can think about it, and thank you. Have a nice day.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Marybeth [2:26:14 inaudible], your line is open.

**Marybeth:**

Hello, my name is Marybeth [2:26:20 inaudible]. I'm a resident of Venice, and I'm active with the group Protect Playa Now, a group of local volunteers working to bring attention to the dangers of the Playa del Rey gas storage facility and to shut it down. I am speaking today in support of the 2,500-foot setback for all existing oil and gas wells in our state.

Local residents here that live close to the facility, some within 200 feet have experienced migraines, bloody noses, asthma, and other ill

health effects from the carcinogenic chemicals that are used in the-- in the storage facility and the processing of oil and gas.

In the 2018, non-partisan report issued by the California council on Science and Technology, well, that was commissioned by the state legislator. This report said that the Playa Dey Rey gas storage facility beneath the [2:27:19 inaudible] wetlands is the most dangerous in the state.

The 2,500-foot setback would be a key element of closing this facility that was cited as a very dangerous facility. Our local officials, County Supervisor, Genas [2:27:36 inaudible] and City Councilmen, Mike Burman have both cited the dangers of this facility due to its proximity to residents and to a very important center, LAX. It's important for jobs and the economy [2:27:51 inaudible] for investigations and-- of this facility.

In addition, we are a climate emergency. Californians are some of the most innovative and creative people in the world. We have the capacity to pick fossil fuels, solve racial and social injustices, and provide jobs in renewable sector for a cleaner future. It is past time to kick fossil fuels, support AB-345. Thank you.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Would the following individuals, please press #2? Gram Hamilton, Mark [2:28:32 inaudible], Barbara Barney, Catarina Games, and Pitmat Brown. Please press #2 on your phones. That's Gram Hamilton, Barbara Barney, Mark [2:28:51, inaudible], Catarina Games, and Pitmat Brown. Please press #2 on your phones. Catarina, your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Catarina:**

Hi, everybody. My name is Catarina Games, and I'm 15 years old. I [2:29:12 inaudible] apocalypse. I'm here today because we need new health and safety policies and restriction in regards to urban fossil fuel extraction projects. These oil joint projects are so many low-income communities and communities of color, people living within 25 feet of these projects are at risk to respiratory issues, heart palpitation, muscle spasm, cancer, birth defect, reproductive health risk, and much more.

We have known about these risks since the 1960s. This cannot happen anymore because oil drilling is poisoning our communities and environment. We need that 2,500-foot barrier between communities and oil drillings. In addition, you need to stop supporting and issuing new permits for oil drilling and fracking. During the pandemic, low income communities are proven to be hit the hardest by COVID-19 due to health compromization given to them by oil drilling and fracking.

According to the EPA, people of color are the most likely to live near polluters and polluted air. You need to stop hurting marginalized communities. You have the power to protect our communities and planets. We need a just and equitable transition to renewable energy. This would allow for more jobs without poisoning workers in the communities and planet. This switch to renewables is inevitable if we want a livable future. Please allow this transition to happen in time. You have the power to do so. Thank you for your time today.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Would Angela Degan, Pitmat Brown, Jeb Eddy, and Jimmy Slough, please press #2 on your phones. That's Jeb Eddy, Jimmy Slough, Pitmat Brown, Alice Driffle, Angela Degan, please press #2 on your phones. Angela, your line is open.

**Angel:**

Hi there, my name is Angela Degan. I'm calling in from the Massa in San Diego Country where I live. I was happy to hear that CalGEM's mission to protect the public health safety and the environment was recently strengthened. I urge CalGEM to face oil production in exposed communities by creating the minimum 2,500-foot health and safety buffer zone between fossil fuel, infrastructure and homes, schools, and other sensitive sites.

This will help us make the critical transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy in a planned intentional way, so we can assure a smooth transition without workers falling into the cracks. I offer support to a moratorium on any new drilling operations. The bottom line is, at the macro scale, there's simply no way to burn fossil fuels in a way that protects public health. If we fail to transition away from fossil fuel scraps, we're condemning our children and future generations to living on an in-hospitable planet. Thank you very much.

**Candace:**

Thank you. Again, for Catrina Madison, Jeb Eddy, Jimmy Slough, Pitmat Brown, Alice Druffle, and Kana Lee, please press #2 on your phones. If you would like to make a comment and you have not been called on, please press #2 and we will call on people through each stakeholder group. Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Male Speaker:**

Hello, good afternoon, my name is [2:33:29 inaudible]. I'm a [2:33:30 inaudible] on Locus 562 here in Long Beach. As you might realize from my name, I'm a Latino, who took an opportunity with the Carpenter's Union and start a career working in the refineries here for the last 17 years in Long Beach. I'm able to provide for my family with good Union paying job, benefits for myself and my family, and I'm looking to someday retire with a pension.

I have zero debt. Zero dollars in debt. I would like to add that majority of my coworkers, all Latinos and African Americans. Yesterday we were out there in the city of Long Beach, helping out the businesses that were affected, boarding up business. Many of these owners did not know what to do, we went out there and helped out because we can. You know what happens when we give **[2:34:26 inaudible]** opportunities in our communities? Crime rises, suicide rates go up, mental health, it's all affected. We're not thinking about that.

I urge CalGEM to think about this when they go into the group of process-- in the process of making up these rules. The **[2:34:49 inaudible]** fossil fuels, but can we afford electric cars? How many cars do we own? That's expensive. Even at that, are we going to build tires out of solar? Even the solar panels, they're made out of plastic parts. The clothing that you wear, the roof that those panels are installed, petroleum products. You use shampoo, women, you use lipstick, petroleum, so just think about that. Ninety percent of the products that you have in your home are made out of petroleum. Tonight, when your brushing your teeth with toothpaste, petroleum, think about--

**Candace:**

Thank you. Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Ralph:**

Hi, the is Ralph Comes, with the thermal company. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. I wanted to reiterate some of the comments that have been made first by my colleague, Christi Reed, and others in my industry. I just want to highlight a few key points. Number one, local production is sustainable production. Pushing out to Oil and Gas Industry, the arbitrary setbacks will not benefit the environment and will in fact increase greenhouse gas emissions around the world.

The science is clear on that. What the science is not clear on this, and we all have the access to the same emissions data. It shows that minimal contribution of oil and gas operations to the complete mix of emissions in the state. Additionally, with green jobs advocates failed to mention is that their job counts include someone at the hardware store selling LED bulbs or temporary solar **[2:36:53 inaudible]** jobs.

This is not going to be sustainable or supportive for those workers that are currently in the oil and gas industry. Some secrets have brought up the pandemic, and one thing the pandemic have taught us is how essential it is that we control and manage our own resources and not be the **[2:37:16 inaudible]** to foreign suppliers. As a quick note about myself and my company, we have wells and

[2:37:25 inaudible] to our office, and I personally live within a half mile within an oil field and three-quarters of a mile from around wells.

I've been around wells and oil and gas industry my entire life. I'm extremely proud of the work I and my company do every day to help provide the essential energy with our great state and its people need to survive and thrive. Survive is not an exaggeration, without oil and natural gas or economy, food system--

**Candace:** Hey, please, go head, your line is open. Your phone may be set to mute.

**Female Speaker:** [2:38:08 inaudible].

**Candace:** Yes.

**Female Speaker:** Hello, my name's [2:38:16 inaudible]. A work climate organizing with [2:38:19 inaudible]. [2:38:23 inaudible] before me, fresh [2:38:26 inaudible] come about the workers and how they've taken so much [2:38:31 inaudible]. I truly do sympathize-- I'm also [2:38:31 inaudible] immigrant and I know that there are some jobs they only want you to get.

I know that we're all here because we all care about the same the thing, the wellbeing of our families today and in the future. We all recognize that fossil fuels are [2:39:00 inaudible] global crisis that affects all of us one way or another. Mostly black, indigenous and people of color, not only are these [2:39:10 inaudible] lives of others and profit, but that also created racism because constantly, not all the time, oil and gas infrastructures are [2:39:20 inaudible] within a mile away from already marginalized communities. Treating our communities as disposable.

We cannot wait to go renewable in 2030 because that's [2:39:29 inaudible] tactics by the oil and gas infrastructure in our everyday life. The governor himself, he said the he would guide and continue to guide this science. Well, the science behind the health impact of the chemicals and emissions, and fossil fuel production on our bodies is clear.

There's a [2:39:50 inaudible] scientific evidence that [2:39:52 inaudible] if you live near an oil and gas infrastructure, it would impact your health. Some of those impact includes cancer, premature mortality, asthma, and other respiratory illnesses. Over five million Californians live within one mile of an oil and gas site, and those one-third live in areas with the highest levels of [2:40:12 inaudible]. The same people impacted by--



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

**Female Speaker:** Hello, can you hear me?

**Candace:** Yes. Yes, we can.

**Female Speaker:** [2:40:30 inaudible] this is [2:40:31 inaudible] and 16 years old, and I'm also here [2:40:33 inaudible] apocalypse. Really, I should be doing my online schooling but instead I'm here. Urging for fossil fuels to be checked in the ground. Living close to oil and gas leads to health issues, such as asthma and health defects, but how ironic is that oil and gas infrastructures [2:40:50 inaudible] in low income communities of color that already cannot afford health insurance are more impacted.

We demand for at least a 2,500-foot buffer zone between oil and gas and when people go about their daily life to live, work, play, and [2:41:05 inaudible]. Immediate actions need to be taken to protect not only myself, but my community and my future. I live in Richman where we have the [2:41:14 inaudible] in my backyard. Guess what's also at my backyard? [2:41:18 inaudible]. But the very people in my community who have health issues, [2:41:21 inaudible] can't even go to the hospital, that's a place right here but we can't afford it. Please prioritize the health and safety of my community. Thank you.

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

**Miles:** Good afternoon. My name is Miles [2:41:44 inaudible], and I am an environmental specialist at California Resources Cooperation. I've worked in the oil and natural gas industry for three years. I'm part of an essential workforce that is comprised of all backgrounds and all walks of life. And reflects the power of California's diversity.

My job is important to me because it is my duty to ensure the compliance with new and amended regulation from federal, state, and local agencies. The oil and gas industry in California is by far the most heavily regulated in the country and possibly even the world. I'm proud to be part of [2:42:21 inaudible] closely with regulators and apply the latest technologies to lower emissions, to be a safe, efficient responsible produce in California.

CalGEM's public health and safety rulemaking matters to me because most guided decisions are a step in a wrong direction. Some of the proposed measure have the ability to impact first generation families for just [2:42:45 inaudible] across California. CRC has given me the opportunity to bring a better life for my family. Eliminating jobs like mine will take away endless

opportunities from working class families and ultimately increase our dependency on imported energy.

To protect the public health and safety, we must protect Californians access to affordable, reliable energy and good paying local jobs. Thank you.

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

**John:** This message is for the Mr. Ntuk. Thank you very much. My name is John [2:43:27 inaudible] I work for the Sierra Club. I'm the Director of [2:43:30 inaudible] Chapter, representing Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. We strongly support the 2,500-foot setback from oil and gas operation, and the places where people work, live, congregate. There should be no drilling through drinking water aquifer.

There should be no [2:43:51 inaudible] well drilling. We should place a hold on new permits in the oil fields where the US geological surveys that in-ground water quality until publication of the report and the data is release. Also, I'm very concerned about what's going on with these fracking permits. You authorized 25 of them already. Hundreds more are waiting, and this is all happening during COVID, and then we read that Governor Newsom, this is from [2:44:26 inaudible]. "Newsom [2:44:26 inaudible] add oil regulators, even though industries would have paid."

What's going on here? We need to strengthen these protections for our health, especially during COVID, instead we're lessening that, and this has to end right now. Thank you.

**Candace:** Mr. Ramon, please go ahead.

**Eric:** My name is Eric Ramon. I'm with the Standard [2:44:58 inaudible] in Los Angeles. As black folks [2:45:03 inaudible] around the country based on Black Lives, we're here to urge CalGEM and [2:45:08 inaudible] California to challenge the longstanding racist factor with giving oil companies the free pass. The [2:45:13 inaudible] working class community color by extracting oil and gas usually close to their homes and schools.

High pollution areas is comprised of over 80 safe labor public health medical housing and community organizations, and we're committed to ending oil and gas production in neighborhoods including through the establishment of a 2,500-foot health and safety buffer between oil and gas wells and [2:45:35 inaudible] appreciate CalGEM and the governor initiate this process and taking seriously our public input.

Our leadership and our coalition's working [2:45:43 inaudible] and in the harbor area for decades. Good jobs and equitable community development. We understand firsthand the [2:45:49 inaudible] the working class, for Black and Latino folks to find decent jobs, to keep food on the table and roof over their head, especially in the middle of the pandemic. Definitely, that no community should have to choose between good jobs and cleaner water. It is frankly a racist choice that does not depict working class people against each other. It only benefits oil executives. To be clear, also racist choice for oil impacted communities from Nigeria to Ecuador, to Myanmar and many countries in the global [2:46:14 inaudible] for the oil exec [2:46:16 inaudible] heavy profit in importing oil into the U.S while their companies violates human rights for local communities there.

Instead, we are not calling for oil wells to be shut down from Monday to the next. Workers get nothing [2:46:28 inaudible]. In fact, our meeting with public officials at every level of government urging them to make a plan from manage decline of oil and gas production over many years. They're urging them to take real leadership to bring real funding to the table and to bring workers and unions to the table as well, as well as frontline communities.

We have to create a plan that starts years in advance of any oil well actually shutting down to ensure workers are guaranteed jobs. In fossil fuel cleanup or jobs to the same pay and better long-term prospect in other industries, community economically depend on oil--

**Candace:** Hi, your line is open. Please go ahead. [2:47:15 inaudible], your line is open.

**Chris:** Hello? Hey, this is Chris [2:47:23 inaudible]. I'm with the operating engineers Local 3, and we represent members in Northern California that run cranes and do a lot of work at the refineries and in the industry. We really take young men and women from all backgrounds and put them through apprenticeship programs and training them in these highly skilled jobs and give them careers so that they can actually live with dignity and buy house in their communities, send their kids to college, and when they retire these are jobs that are rare with private sector pensions and it will just be an absolute tragedy to get rid of these things as a real balance here and we're on record as opposing maybe 3, 4, 5, and these--

Sixty percent of the folks in-- men and women in these industries are minorities and these jobs are just stepping stone in the low class and in a way to uplift communities and families, and I-- I've been in the [2:48:33 inaudible] living a long time and these are the kind of

jobs that we fight for and the oil and gas industries probably the most heavily-- definitely the most heavily privatized industry in the United States, and especially in California where we have the highest environmental standards, the highest labor standards, and set a tone for the rest of the industry and shifting that to out of state or the overseas or just being absolute tragedy in our estimations.

Please do everything we can to support these jobs, especially in this time [2:49:09 inaudible] working families for us, and that's what we're here for. We can have these conversations about transition or what not, but these [2:49:17 inaudible] now it's-- there's a huge need for them, so--

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

**Jane Detrick:** Hi, my name is Jane Detrick. Can you hear me?

**Candace:** Yes, we can.

**Jane Detrick:** Thanks for the townhall. I own a business in the Ventura oil field, and I'm surrounded by several wells within a few hundred feet of my house and business. Two of my coworkers have lung problems. We run HEPA filters, but we don't know what protective measures we need outside our buildings. As mentioned before, the herbicide used on over 50 acres surrounding us renders bare dusty dirt beyond the advisable 100 feet defensible space around these structures and this is a health risk to the oil field workers who don't wear any protection.

Next, about mineral [2:50:10 inaudible] are inherited by [2:50:12 inaudible] part of an oil, and I sold it a few months before that oil company went bankrupt. We each have the freedom of choice to put the health of living systems above our personal benefit. Monitoring is needed around massive flaring episodes around us associated with significant amounts of unburnt methane rocking the climate. What are we breathing after those plan revisits?

Now, we also want scenario planning in the case of a potential rupture if pipelines due to earthquakes where over are very deep fault as was mentioned. A carbon tax is needed as an effective, fundamental driver of urgently needed transition. It should be transparently structured to achieve over \$110 per ton by 2030. This will drive comprehensive predictable transition, and then we need the 2,500-foot buffer-- buffers to prioritize closing erosion to human settlement, and then we need to close all those active wells.

It's puzzling to hear that good paying jobs are-- would be eliminated from stricter oil and gas regulations when there are so many inactive wells that have to be closed and these are the people still to do it. Get those wells closed before earthquakes and extreme weather events create disasters in these declining fields. The **[2:51:32 inaudible]** above Ventura has been brighter than during the Thomas **[2:51:36 inaudible]** due to massive flaring. Fugitive unburnt methane drives immediate warming of the planet. Please require--

**Candace:**

Hi, please go ahead. Your line is open.

**Yvonne:**

Hi, this Yvonne Martinez Watson. I'm a resident in **[2:51:57 inaudible]**, and today I'm just **[2:52:00 inaudible]**. I've been dealing with adverse health effects from oil and gas industries since I was very young, starting with second grade. I'm dealing with a brand-new reality as of last year when I suffered two rounds of respiratory failures, and now I'm dealing with severe asthma. The current health guidelines around, health protections around oil and gas wells, they're not strict enough.

I've spent my entire life living within a mile of oil and gas wells, and my health has been severely impacted, and we need to do something to protect the children, especially the ones who are on the phones today testifying before you. It's probably too late for me, but it's not too late for them. If we don't do something to help now, there's going to be a whole new generation of people growing up with the same respiratory issues, the same health problems, the people of my generation and others have suffered through.

I'm hoping to submit written comments, but right now, I just want to say what I needed to say. I've been waiting on the phone this entire time to be able to speak. I was so looking forward to have the CalGEM come to my city of Montebello for one of their meetings because I thought at last, someone's coming to my community, a community that's mostly people of color, mostly Latin X and I am Latin X and I thought this was great.

Finally, they come here and can see what-- for themselves, what's going on and can hear from the community. I was deeply disappointed when that meeting had to be cancelled due to COVID. I'm not blaming you for it, but I'm letting you know, these things are impacting people's lives. People are getting sick. People are being exposed to high rates of pollution, and they need to be-- and we are the ones suffering the most right now. Thank you.

**Candace:** Thanks very much. We'll be able to take at least three additional people before the end of our meeting. Your line is open. Please go ahead.

**Darrell:** Hi, my name is Darrell Hale, and I live in Los Angeles, and I have very intently listened to the first hearing, and I was baffled by how many people in the oil and gas industry are living in the past and see no alternatives. I am not an anti-oil activist. I am a pro, clean job, California infrastructure activist. In April, we had 26 oil tankers just sitting off the coast of Long Beach and San Pedro with 20 million barrels of oil that nobody wanted and nobody had known what to do with it or where to store it, and they just sat there for a while.

**[2:55:00 inaudible]** was appointed as the pro-chairman of the new economic recovery taskforce. Put Tom's style to work. Talk to him about demanding programs to move and retrain all these oil and gas industry people, and place them, and create new jobs for them, high paying new jobs, infrastructure, solar, wind, and battery storage jobs, fix their bridges, our roads, build affordable housing, clean up abandoned oil wells and clean up-- and preserve wildfire areas.

Here's Tom's **[2:55:38 inaudible]**. Don't complain about what is. Thank you.

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

**Female Speaker:** Good afternoon. My name is **[2:55:52 inaudible]**. I'm the executive director of physicians for social responsibility Los Angeles and the co-chair of standing together against neighborhood drilling, and we stand with those communities and workers. For that reason, we are calling for 2,500-foot setback, and as the previous caller said, we can no longer wait. We must start to plan for a just transition strategy that puts workers and communities first and hold the oil companies accountable.

They have benefit from the labor of our brothers and sisters who have been testifying today, and it is on them to fund a direct payment and ongoing salaries support when we move to a transition, which is not going to happen tomorrow. We need to manage decline. We must face the fact that this is a declining industry. It is disingenuous to say this is a safe industry because according to a labor-- department of labor statistics and the CDC, it is one of the most dangerous jobs.

I have worked on AB32 and AB617 and the **[2:56:52 inaudible]** regulatory process, all failures, all have failed to protect communities who are on the frontlines of this oil extractions. We

cannot treat out communities and our workers as sacrifice zones. We promise of a new economy. There's more promise in a cleanup and the restoration of our communities, so that we will not be more vulnerable to things like COVID-19 and the coming climate catastrophe that we will face if we do not act now.

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

**Harvey:** Hi, name is Anne Harvey. I'm a family doctor, and I'm a member of **[2:57:40 inaudible]** now. As you move forward with your important increased emphasis on protecting the public from harm, from fossil fuel extraction, it's strongly recommended that you create a dedicated expert CalGEM health advisory group.

They should have representatives from local health departments, public health NGOs, independent researchers petitions and organizations representing clinical health professionals and community health experts. Specifically, it offers guidance and evaluating the health **[2:58:09 inaudible]** of chemicals used in oil and gas extraction, interpreting the health implications to toxin levels for you and the public in evaluating the health implications of new requests for permit and in developing a better framework for understanding cumulative impacts.

But in order for the health advisory group to provide useful advice, they'll need valid data which entirely requires knowledge and effective monitoring of all toxic chemical released during oil and gas extraction. This means no more trade secret excuse. Privately owned companies must be required to disclose the use, disposal and known toxicities of all chemicals involved in all phases of their operation. This includes drilling, extraction, maintenance, **[2:58:54 inaudible]** control, and all other usage and please actually go ahead and outlaw the use of toxic chemicals, such as the endocrine-disrupting phthalates for the purpose of masking odors which hides but compounds the injuries. Thank you for serving us and transitioning--

**Candace:** Thank you very much. We are **[2:59:19 inaudible]** past the hour, and I apologize. It looks like we are-- we need to end our-- the meeting. Sarah?

**Sarah Rubin:** Yes, once we get on speaker. I'm so sorry if you were hoping to speak and we have run out of time. We have absolutely hoping to get to everybody today. I would like to reiterate that you can connect to us through email, through the poll, through the Survey Monkey, whatever is convenient for you. We want to hear from you. We appreciate your patience. It's a very long time for those of you

who stuck with us 'til the end. I am grateful for your time, and I especially want to do—mention to the woman from Montebello of—we were so looking forward to go in there and we were so grateful for all the local help, you might have been part of that, to secure the location and to organize that meeting.

We were very eager, not just in Montebello, but to South L.A., to Long Beach, Oxnard. We didn't get to go to Coalinga, and then we were going to do one in Sacramento. We're very disappointed we didn't get to do those and I am absolutely hoping to visiting your community when we can.

Candace, thank you so much for a great meeting today. We appreciate everyone's input. And on behalf of Supervisor Ntuk, thank you and have a good afternoon.

**Candace:**

Thanks, everyone. You may now disconnect.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPT]**