



## CalGEM Public Health Rulemaking Summary of Input from the Oakland Meeting

On March 9, 2020, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) of the Department of Conservation held a community meeting in Oakland, California regarding public health regulations for oil and gas operations near sensitive receptors. Participants provided both oral and written comments identifying issues of concern to the community and requesting both general and specific remedies.

- There were approximately 80 attendees, with 53 speakers and 44 written comments received.

### Concerns expressed by participants included:

- Weird nasty smells
- Refineries and oil tanks
- Impact on children
- Climate chaos / GHGs
- Asthma, heart conditions, respiratory disease, renal effects, diabetes
- Clean air, water and soil/food
- Failing industry in crisis, unmanaged decline
- Carcinogens/cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, death
- Low-birth weight and premature birth, encephalopathy
- Environmental injustice and disparate impacts on low-income and communities of color
- Renewable energy sources
- Insolvency and orphan wells
- Aging infrastructure
- Lack of environmental regulations
- Failure to respond to public concerns
- Use of land as economic engine
- Fracking
- Benzene (BTEX)
- Laches laws
- Fish, animals, birds
- Noise impacts and pollution
- Creation of "sacrifice zones"
- Lack of meaningful environmental review
- Inadequate response to leaks
- Unproven geoengineering technologies
- Cognitive defects and learning disabilities
- Particulate matter, heavy metals and radioactivity
- Idle and abandoned wells
- Produced water used for irrigation
- Chemical use without disclosure; toxicity and chemical interactions
- Superfund sites
- Just transition
- Flaring and leaks



Some participants indicated that additional regulations were not needed. Comments included:

- Benefits of refinery water purification on Bay water
- Modernized equipment and prudent safety measures in place
- Operators employ environmental and safety experts
- Continuous ongoing training and education
- Refineries provide thousands of jobs
- Workers live in the communities where they work
- Emissions data indicates decreasing impacts
- Recent idle well and UIC regulations

Other participants suggested actions that could be taken to address the concerns, such as:

- Leave the oil in the ground; stop drilling and production; moratorium on all extraction permits
- Shut down refineries
- 2500-foot health and safety buffer zone between oil and gas operations and places where people live, work, learn, and play (pass AB 345)
- Strengthen regulations to the strictest rules possible
- Move to fossil fuel free energy sources
- Manage the decline/ensure a just transition
- Implement the green new deal
- Phase out production within 10 years
- Continuous monitoring
- Ban fracking
- Conduct studies in impacted communities
- More regulation of chemicals across life cycle
- More protections for groundwater resources
- Ensure rapid clean up holding industry accountable for costs (remediate superfund sites)
- Disallow building of distribution network
- Fence line monitoring (should include PM2.5)
- CEQA reform
- Public participation in the permitting process

This workshop is part of a series of workshops being held throughout the state to gather information from the public regarding concerns with oil and gas operations and their impact on public health. CalGEM will review the comments and recommendations received as it develops a regulator proposal to address public health concerns from oil and gas production.