

SB 1137 FIRST IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS HEALTH PROTECTION ZONES

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

There have been no changes in applicable laws or to the effect of the proposed regulations from the laws and effects described in the Informative Digest included with the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Action for this rulemaking action.

The SB 1137 First Implementation Regulations make permanent a framework for compliance with SB 1137 health protection zone requirements and build on the California Geologic Energy Management Division's (Division) 2022 SB 1137 First Emergency Implementation Regulations and lessons learned. These regulations clarify and augment the regulatory standards applicable to oil and gas development in California. The requirements will advance the Division's implementation of state law to regulate oil and gas operations so as to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources.

These regulations are the result of consideration of extensive public input and consultation with other state regulatory agencies. After extensive pre-rulemaking stakeholder engagement, a public comment period on the originally proposed regulations was held from August 1, 2025, to September 18, 2025, pursuant to the Notice of Proposed Action mailed to interested parties and duly published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on August 1, 2025 (Register 2025, Number 31-Z, August 1, 2025). During that public comment period a hybrid public hearing was held in Sacramento on September 17, 2025. After reviewing the comments received, engaging in further direct consultation with interested stakeholders and revising the text of the proposed regulations, the Division held a public comment period from October 31 to November 17, 2025, to receive input on the first revised text of the proposed regulations. A second comment period was held from November 20 to December 11, 2025 to receive input on the second revised text of the proposed regulations.

The revised regulations are consistent in purpose and scope with the original Informative Digest for this rulemaking action. In response to stakeholder

comments received, the Division crafted the regulations to be less burdensome and more cost effective, and equally or more effective to carry out the regulatory purposes discussed in the Informative Digest. Below is a section-by-section summary of the revisions made to the originally proposed regulations.

SUMMARY OF 15-DAY REVISIONS

1765.4 Water Sampling & Testing

A provision was added to ensure that the Division receives a copy of any response to an operator's notice required by Public Resources Code section 3284 so that before planned work can begin relevant authorities can evaluate any testing request and the Division can determine that required sampling and testing has been completed or is not required.

1765.4.1 Notice to Property Owners and Tenants

Language was added to clarify that a request for sampling and testing in writing and record of delivery includes writing by electronic mail, and to require the operator to include in the notice an electronic email address that a property owner or tenant may use to contact the operator to make a sampling and testing request.

Subdivisions (a)5 through (a)14 and internal cross-references were renumbered to accommodate the new subdivision (a)(4) adding the email address requirement.

1765.7 Content and Formal Specifications for Sensitive Receptor Inventories

Language was added to emphasize that sensitive receptor inventories shall comply with all requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) and its implementing regulations for online viewing.

1765.8 Content and Formal Specifications for Sensitive Receptor Maps

Language was added to emphasize that sensitive receptor maps shall comply with all requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) and its implementing regulations for online viewing.

1765.9 Determination that a Location is not with a Health Protection Zone

This provision was amended to remove a requirement for operators to identify certain outdoor recreation areas as potential sensitive receptors because other requirements ensure adequate operator consideration and Division review of any recreation site the Division has identified as a potential sensitive receptor.