

# NOTICE OF PRE-RULEMAKING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF UPDATES TO UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL REGULATIONS

January 21, 2016

The Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) has publicly released pre-rulemaking draft regulations (Discussion Draft) for the purpose of receiving public input on the development of updates to the regulations implementing the Division's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. **Public comment can be submitted through February 19, 2016.**

This 30-day comment period is part of an informal, pre-rulemaking process to develop regulations, and all interested parties are encouraged to participate. Enclosed with this notice is a Discussion Draft outlining specific changes and additions to the Code of Regulations that govern the UIC Program. This Discussion Draft was developed based on verbal and written public comments received during three public workshops held throughout September 2015 in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Bakersfield, as well as written comments submitted during the same period.

The comments received throughout the current comment period will be reviewed and considered as the Division updates the draft regulations. Updated draft regulations will be made public when the Division commences a formal rulemaking process. Public comment hearings and additional comment periods will be announced when the formal rulemaking process is noticed to the public.

Written submissions may be provided to the Division by regular mail or email at:

Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
ATTN: UIC Discussion Draft

[UIC.Regulations@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:UIC.Regulations@conservation.ca.gov)  
ATTN: UIC Discussion Draft

If you are currently not on the mailing list for UIC-related rulemakings but would like to be, please utilize the following link: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/MailingLists.aspx>

The update to the UIC regulations is an elemental component of a corrective action plan agreed to by the Division, the State Water Resources Control Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to bring the State's Class II UIC Program into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Examples of the types of wells that will be impacted by these regulations include, but are not limited to, those utilized for wastewater disposal, injection of water and steam for the purposes of producing oil and gas, as well as the storage of natural gas (e.g., the types of wells at the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility in Los Angeles County). However, these draft regulations of the UIC Program are separate and distinct from those that are being implemented through the emergency rulemaking process as ordered in Governor's Brown's emergency proclamation of January 6, 2016 on the Aliso Canyon gas leak.