

Diana: Welcome to the CalGEM Creation of Public Health Regulations. Before we begin, make sure you have opened the participant Webex channels and chat using the buttons located at the bottom of your screen. Please note that all audio connections are muted at this time. If you need technical assistance, send a chat to the event producer. Having said that, I will pass the conference to José.

José: Good afternoon and welcome! We are pleased that you could join us. My name is José González Ortíz and I work with CalGEM at the Bakersfield local office. In a few moments, I will go over how you can share your comment or opinion, but first I have the pleasure to introduce our State Oil and Gas Supervisor, Uduak-Joe Ntuk.

Oneida: Uduak.

Uduak: Thank you, Diana and José. It's a pleasure to be here and I would like to welcome everyone and thank them for their participation today.

Interpreter: Thank you, Diana and José, I would like to thank everyone for their participation today.

Uduak: My name is Uduak-Joe Ntuk, I'm the State Oil and Gas Supervisor over the California Geological Energy Management Division. We are responsible of hosting today's workshop.

Interpreter: My name is Uduak-Joe Ntuk, I'm the State Oil and Gas Supervisor over the California Geological Energy Management Division. We are responsible of hosting today's workshop.

Uduak: Last year, Governor Newsom announced a number of changes around the state about oil and gas, and one of them is this public health workshop.

Interpreter: Last year, Governor Newsom announced a number of changes around the state about oil and gas, and one of them is this public health workshop.

Uduak: This workshop comes out of the governor's initiatives to change the mission of CalGEM to focus on public health by protecting the environment, safety and advancing the state's clean energy goals.

Interpreter: This workshop comes out of the governor's initiatives to change the mission of CalGEM to focus on public health by protecting the environment, safety and advancing the state's clean energy goals.

Uduak: CalGEM is the state regulator over the oil and gas fields in the state, the underground gas storage fields, and the geothermal energy production operations.

Interpreter: CalGEM is the state regulator over the oil and gas fields in the state, the underground gas storage fields, and the geothermal energy production operations.

Uduak: Today's workshop is part of our pre-rulemaking public outreach efforts to make sure that we're inclusive of all Californians in this rulemaking process.

Interpreter: Today's workshop is part of our pre-rulemaking public outreach efforts to make sure that we're inclusive of all Californians in this rulemaking process.

Uduak: We originally had planned 10 meetings across the state, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were only able to have four of the 10 workshops.

Interpreter: We originally had planned 10 meetings across the state, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were only able to have four of the 10 workshops.

Uduak: Today's workshop is one of three online or phone-based workshops that people can participate simply by having a phone to call in and share their views and perspectives on public health in oil and gas operations.

Interpreter: Today's workshop is one of three online or phone-based workshops that people can participate simply by having a phone to call in and share their views and perspectives on public health in oil and gas operations.

Uduak: We're disappointed to not have in-person meetings, but we know this other means of public participation and wanted to expand all options and thankful that everyone who's participating today digitally.

Interpreter: We're disappointed to not have in-person meetings, but we know this other means of public participation and wanted to expand all options and thankful that everyone who's participating today digitally.

Uduak: Just to share a little bit of my background, I grew up in Southern California and went to university for chemical and petroleum engineering.

Interpreter: Just to share a little bit of my background, I grew up in Southern California and went to university for chemical and petroleum engineering.

Uduak: Also, my family lives in Southern California and I have experienced poor air quality and know what it's like when there's good air and there's bad air.

Interpreter: Also, my family lives in Southern California and I have experienced poor air quality and know what it's like when there's good air and there's bad air.

Uduak: Throughout my career, I've worked on energy and environmental projects and policies to improve the health and safety of everyday people.

Interpreter: Throughout my career, I've worked on energy and environmental projects and policies to improve the health and safety of everyday people.

Uduak: I'd just like to say for everyone who's giving their participation and their input today, no idea or input is too small and no idea or suggestion is too big.

Interpreter: I'd just like to say for everyone who's giving their participation and their input today, no idea or input is too small and no idea or suggestion is too big.

Uduak: Thank you again for your participation, we will be taking notes. After conclusion of the workshop we will post a summary of the comments on our web site, so that everyone can see the variety of input we have.

Interpreter: Thank you again for your participation, we will be taking notes. After conclusion of the workshop we will post a summary of the comments on our web site, so that everyone can see the variety of input we have. Thank you again.

Uduak: So thank you, I'm going to be listening in, but I'm going to, now the presentation **[unintelligible 00:08:03]** to my colleague.

Interpreter: Thank you very much, I will be listening in, and now my colleague will give her presentation.

Diana: Thank you, Uduak.

Sarah: Hi, everyone, if you can see me, if you are joining through the web connection, my name is Sarah Rubin, I am the Department of Conservation's outreach and engagement coordinator.

Interpreter: Hi, everyone, if you can see me, if you are joining through the web connection, my name is Sarah Rubin, I am the Department of Conservation's outreach and engagement coordinator.

Sarah: I also want to welcome you and say again, like Uduak just said, we're sorry we cannot be with you in person.

Interpreter: I also want to welcome you and say again, like Uduak just said, we're sorry we cannot be with you in person.

Sarah: For some of you who have been to a meeting with me, you know I really like to have snacks and, so I can feel like this is similar, I brought some snacks and if you were here, I would be sharing some sodas and chips and fruit with you.

Interpreter: For some of you who have been to a meeting with me, you know I really like to have snacks and, so I can feel like this is similar, I brought some snacks and if you were here, I would be sharing some sodas and chips and fruit with you.

Sarah: So, with that I'm going to turn things over to my colleague José who I'm very grateful too to explain the way public comments will work this afternoon.

Interpreter: So, with that I'm going to turn things over to my colleague José who I'm very grateful too to explain the way public comments will work this afternoon.

José: Now I'll explain how you can participate this afternoon. For those who join us via internet, you can see this on your screen. I'll explain this to make sure everyone joining us by phone can understand the process. Each interested group will have the chance to share its perspective. The interested group categories are the following: community, environmental groups, industry, workforce, public health, or other.

Each person will have two minutes to share his/her comments. Given that this is new to all of us, we'll try to limit the complexity of this virtual meeting, so we'll only offer these groups today.

Oneida, our AT&T facilitator, will call the names of those who'd like to share their comments. We hope that everyone who wishes to share a comment will have the chance to participate. We also invite you to use any of our four alternative methods. At this time, those who join us via internet can see this on your screen. I'll explain this for the people joining us by phone.

Method one: you can send us an e-mail to CalGEMRegulations@conservation.ca.gov; we offer an online survey through the website Survey Monkey; you can also participate anonymously through a counting or vote or snapshot using the MeetingSift platform. On the following dates, which are May 30, June 2 and 6, you'll also be able to use this method. You can also send your comments by mail.

Let me remind you that this information is available at our website www.conservation.ca.gov/publichealth. We have another virtual meeting planned for June 2 at 1:00 PM, which will be in English. If there is more than one person who would like to comment on your telephone line, please let us know so we can grant two minutes per person. This is the process. Sarah, I am done explaining the process.

Interpreter: Sarah, I am done explaining the process.

[pause 00:13:02]

Sarah: Oneida, [unintelligible] news. Oneida, could you give us a sense of how many people are on the line or are in the Webex or the phone right now?

Interpreter: Oneida, could you give us a sense of how many people are on the line or are in the Webex or the phone right now?

Oneida: We have 85 connected to the audio and 30 connected to the web.

Interpreter: We have 85 connected to the audio and 30 connected to the web. Fantastic.

Sarah: José, did you have a chance to mention that if there is more than one person in one telephone line, or in the same house for the speaker to please mention that and then we-- Here from each person to make it convenient for that family.

Interpreter: José, did you have a chance to mention that if there is more than one person in one telephone line, to please mention that and they will be granted more time?

José: Yes. Yes, I did.

Sarah: Fantastic. Okay. Sorry for repeat.

Interpreter: Yes. Fantastic.

Sarah: We are ready to start the public comments. Oneida, if you want to start.

Interpreter: We are ready to start the public comments. Oneida, if you want to start.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes, Gustavo Aguirre, Carmen Alonso, Diego Cabral, Juan Campos and Marta Agüero, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. You'll hear a notification when your line is not muted. At that time, please make your comment. Again, Gustavo Aguirre, Carmen Alonso, Diego Cabral, Juan Campos and Marta Agüero, please press the numeric keyboard and number two. Gustavo, please make your comment.

Gustavo Aguirre: Hello, good afternoon! Gustavo Aguirre here [unintelligible 00:15:38] a pleasure, can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Gustavo: Perfect, okay. My comment is actually from an organizer and resident of Kern county, where about 80% of the drilling for oil takes place here, among Latin-American communities. What I would really like to [unintelligible 00:16:06] is that the importance of the energy is unquestionable, but I think that the public health of the people living here is more important.

Another thing I can share is that if the drilling for oil continues in these communities, it should be at a long distance. Here there are specific distances from pesticides; the same should happen with the distance from oil drilling in our communities. With this--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Now, Carmen Alonso, please make your comment.

Carmen Alonso: My name is Carmen Alonso. I live in Southern/Central California. What I see is that oil and gas industries do have an effect, as communities have been very affected with these types of work. Many children have developed asthma, cancer, and nosebleeds.

I understand that these works affect the community, but right now, with the pandemic, they should not be taken away, because these are the only jobs we have. My brother works in this and he would be affected because, where else would he get a job at this time?

If these oil and gas industries could operate far away from the community and the streets where there are children and older people... It would be a good idea that these works were carried out at a wasteland on the mountains or where there are no communities, where people don't have to smell those chemicals. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes, Diego Cabral, Juan Campos and Marta Agüero, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Juan Campos, please make your comment.

Juan Campos: Good afternoon. My name is Juan Campos and I am a resident of the city of Bakersfield. I work at California Resources Corporation as team leader for the environment, and I'm also the community director with the Kern County League of United Latin-American Citizens. I have worked in the industry for over eight years. As worker and resident of an area of oil producers, I'm proud to be a member of this community. The industry offers us safe well-paid work.

I grew up in a small town where the options of my parents and neighbors were very limited. Today, 35% of my colleagues in the industry are Latin-American. This industry has given me the chance to provide for me and my family, to support my community, and to teach the following generation the beautiful careers that can be found in our industry, all this while respecting all public health rules. This industry offers opportunities that benefit our entire communities directly, both through high-quality and voluntary participation jobs in community projects. Without industry, our community, like myself, will be damaged, and it would be really hard to find jobs that offer the same benefits.

That is why I ask CalGEM that, to protect public safety and health, we must protect California's access to affordable, trustworthy energy with good local jobs. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Juan Flores, Dulce Altamirano, Ronnie Fuentes and José García, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. You'll hear a notification when your line is not muted. At that time, please make your comment. Ronnie, please make your comment. Ronnie, your line is not muted, please make your comment.

Ronnie Fuentes: Good afternoon! My name is Ronnie Fuentes. I'm a family man and the father of a CalGEM worker. In this opportunity, I would like to tell you that it's true that our health is affected because of the air we breathe, but I would also like to tell you that it's not a good idea to shut down this company, as we would be affected, and we already are with this pandemic.

My son is practically the provider of our household right now, because I have been unemployed for two months. We are living on his wage. Many other families would be affected like mine. Therefore, we ask not to shut down this industry, to avoid increasing unemployment. Thank you. That's all.

Oneida: Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. Your line is not muted, please say your name and then leave your comment.

Juan Flores: Hello, good afternoon! My name is Juan Flores, resident of Kern county. I am calling to ask CalGEM to live with passion its new mission, which is to protect the residents' health.

For many years, we've put the profits of the oil industry executives above the health of the needy, mostly consisting of Hispanic communities with low resources, who have always lived with health problems like asthma, specially here in Kern county, due to the Valley fever.

I think it's time that we see and realize that it doesn't matter how much money we make if we don't have a life. I ask CalGEM to live this new mission so that we finally get justice for so many children in our county that suffer from asthma, for the children that have died in the city of Shafter, those who have been diagnosed with cancer at only nine years of age, that we'll finally place a protection area between oil extraction and our communities. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Nayamin Martínez, Ruth Andrade, Yesenia Padilla and Palmira Hernández, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. You'll hear a notification when your line is not muted. At that time, please make your comment. Ruth, your line is unblocked, please leave your comment.

Ruth: Hello! My name is Ruth Andrade, I'm here as member of the Southern Central Los Angeles community. I'm the air quality ambassador of the SCLA:PUSH project. I'm here for the community and families that live, work and attend school near the oil wells and active oil refineries in California.

Over five million people live in California within one mile from an oil or gas well, and one third lives in areas with the highest levels of contamination in the state. There is growing scientific evidence that links the closeness to oil and gas wells with a series of health impacts, such as cancer, premature death, asthma, and other breathing diseases.

The community of color and low-income communities are the most affected by the extraction of oil in our neighborhood. It's necessary to install a buffer area of 2,500 feet of distance between oil and gas operations and the places where people live, work, and study to protect the health and safety of our communities.

There are many people and children I know, children with cancer who have unfortunately died-- and I suffer from allergies every morning, every afternoon. There's an oil well nearby, less than two miles away, here on Jefferson and Portland, which affects us and our entire community.

In this community, there are many children with cancer. That's why I demand that these operations be placed at 2,500 feet of distance from our neighborhood, our schools, and our community. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Palmira, please leave your comments. Palmira, your line is not muted, please make sure your phone is not muted.

Palmira: Hello! My name is Palmira Hernández and I work for the California Resources Corporation, an oil company. I know what it's to fight and sweat in the Central Valley fields and to live next to wells. There are many people who say that living next to wells increases the chance to develop allergies, asthma and cancer, but there's no scientific evidence claiming that this is what's going on.

I came to this meeting because I worry that people say Latin-Americans are victims of the oil industry. We're not victims, we're participants willing to find better solutions for our community. Oil is necessary for our lifestyle and provides incredible opportunities for our children. My work is important to me because I was able to stay

close to my family while earning three times what I would earn in the fields. Why do you think AMLO wants oil to stay in Mexico? For the same reason we want oil to stay in California.

If we keep saying we're the victims, instead of working with the industry, the government will find oil in other countries, which costs more, and big opportunities will also go to those countries.

Having said that, I encourage CalGEM to find methods of working together with the industry, not only for a safer and healthier community, but also to allow the Latin-American community to become a partner instead of a victim in the discussion. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Jacob Lara, Érica Morales, Dora and Alicia Rivera please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Thank you. Jacob, your line is unblocked, please leave your comments.

Jacob: Hello, good afternoon! My name is Jacob Lara, I work at a refinery here in Wilmington called Marathon Refinery. I have worked here in the construction branch for several years. I have never worked with the safety with which I work here, and I have seen this refinery make projects to protect the environment too. Many people can say that they are affected, but I've seen the safety measures they adopt to protect our health, to protect the environment and the entire community.

That's why I was interested in calling this afternoon to give my opinion about what I've seen. It's not something I heard about, it's what I see with my own eyes. I see the care taken by the people working with oil to protect the environment. I also would like to mention the fact that this industry employs thousands and thousands of people and has given us a better lifestyle with good benefits for our families. That's all I have to say. Thanks!

Oneida: Thank you. Yesenia, please leave your comments. Yesenia, your line is not muted, please make your comments.

Yesenia: Hello! Thank you for giving me the chance to talk. I'm a neighbor of an oil industry worker. My neighbor and his coworkers are hard-working people who shouldn't be treated as something disposable on behalf of the environmental justice. Change sometimes must happen and that's okay.

Global warming is a very real problem that must be dealt with. However, this decision affects the sustenance of hundreds of families, so it must be considered that it's not only about moving an oil well, but about preserving the financial stability and wellbeing of the families affected by this change. Thank you for your time.

Oneida: Thank you. Linda Rodríguez, Nelson Alaya, Gloria Sandoval, Argelia León and Abel Rendón, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. You'll hear a notification when your line is not muted. Gloria, your line is unblocked, please make your comment. Gloria, we can't hear you.

Gloria Sandoval: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

Oneida: We can now, thank you.

Gloria: Good afternoon! My name is Gloria Sandoval. Thank you for giving me the chance to talk today. I'm the wife of an oil industry worker.

CalGEM, something good about the industry, for example, is that it has provided food and education to my family, and a good quality of life.

I'm worried that the refinery may be closed, and sad that the workers that support their households may be fired. I understand that things must change, but families should not be affected. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Dulce Altamarino, please press the numeric keyboard and number two. Abel, your line is unblocked, please make your comment. Abel, your line is unblocked, please make your comment. I'm sorry, Abel, we can't hear you right now, maybe your phone is blocked. Please, say your name and then make your comment.

Nelson: Good afternoon! My name is Nelson and I belong to a community organization called **[unintelligible 00:34:42]**. I'm from the Southern-Central region and I'm also an air quality ambassador of SCLA:PUSH. I'm here to make a request and demand **[inaudible 00:34:54]** a buffer area of 2,500 feet of distance between oil and gas operations and the places where we live and work.

I live in the Southern-Central Los Angeles and the contamination problem is an everyday issue. Many people think there are no consequences, but of course there are consequences in the long term. Not in a week or two, it may take years, but eventually all families working in the oil wells **[inaudible 00:35:26]**.

That's why it's important that **[inaudible 00:35:31]** in Southern Los Angeles, so that our community can **[inaudible 00:35:37]** long-term diseases, such as asthma, cancer or other long-term birth defects. **[inaudible 00:35:46]** This is why I'm here today, to ask you to do this **[inaudible 00:35:51]** 2,500 feet of distance from the places where we live, so that we can have a safe community free from oil and environmental waste. Thank you very much! Have a nice day. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes, please, say your name and then make your comments.

Alicia Rivera: Hello, I'm Alicia Rivera. I work in Wilmington and every day I talk to people that is sick and has asthma. Their children and themselves have tumors and are dying of cancer. I see the oil companies, wells and pumps right next to their homes, only divided by a wall, and they can smell the gas, they can hear the noise of the trucks and the gas when the tanks are being dried.

The truth is that it gives you a real headache. How can you still allow these wells being so close to people? Do something. No more permits, unless **[inaudible 00:37:12]** from households, parks and everything. The CalGEM agency, which was DOGGR, has only been in favor of the contaminators. It's time to think about public health. People are suffering for the benefit of a few.

Workers, please think about what you'll leave to your children, the future, not only what you are earning right now, but the future. Everything is contaminated. It doesn't mean you don't have work safety; it means air, water and soil pollution, for everything that comes ahead for us. That's how you should think. Try to get training for jobs that don't contaminate and destroy the environment. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes, Martha Rodríguez, Oscar Bartolo, Xiomara Alfaro, Wember López and Mayte Rodríguez, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Mayte, please leave your comments.

Mayte: Hello! I'm Doctor Mayte Rodríguez, and I'm working in the cities of Oakland and Hayward. I've also trained in Los Angeles. I'm here to represent and emphasize the doctors' point of view that the oil and gas industries are causing serious health problems in the population that lives around them.

I would like to stress that it's important that industries maintain a minimum restrictive distance of 2,500 feet to improve the distance between contamination and the population living nearby. These industries are causing high percentages of asthma and cancer in the population living around them, and there are many studies that show that this industry is, in fact, causing more cancer.

At least in Colorado, a study conducted in 2018 showed that people living at least 500 feet away from oil and gas industries are suffering from a rate of cancer that is eight times higher than the acceptable risks in the United States. This also causes premature birth and congenital defects. It also affects students and schools that are near these industries. Therefore, when there are explosions and other problems with the industry, this also affects this population severely. Please hear what I say. Thank you.

Oneida: Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Linda Rodríguez: Hello! My name is Linda Rodríguez and I'm here in representation of Greenpeace. I'm also a resident of California. I'm calling to demand that the governor that has come to **[unintelligible 00:41:05]** CalGEM to take urgent measures to protect our communities and our families, which live, work, practice their religion, and study near oil wells and refineries, throughout the state of California.

Communities of color and low-income communities, as someone said earlier, are the most affected by oil exploitation in their neighborhoods. Science has clearly shown that oil spills, leaks and injections can contaminate soil and water. Here, in Southern California, but also throughout the state, communities live with oil drillings in their backyards, close to their schools, playgrounds, and parks. This represents a threat to the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink.

We're all here because we care about the same thing, the current and future wellbeing of our families. We want safety, protection, and opportunities for our children, and this is clearly at risk because of oil exploitation in our communities. This activity generates contamination in the air, water, and climate. Thank you for your time. I want you to please consider establishing a protection area of 2,500 feet

between oil and gas operations and the areas where people live, work, and study, to protect the health and safety of our communities.

Oneida: Thank you. Óscar, please make your comments.

Óscar: Hi, my name is Óscar Morales and I'm a member of the Southern Central Los Angeles community. I'm an Air Quality Ambassador for the SCLA [inaudible 00:42:56] [crossed conversation].

Interpreter: Hi, my name is Óscar Morales and I am a member of-- Could you please tell me again where you work? Sir?

Óscar: I'm a member of the Southern Central Los Angeles community.

Interpreter: I'm a member of the Southern Central Los Angeles community.

Óscar: And an Air Quality Ambassador for the SCLA:PUSH Project.

Interpreter: And an Air Quality Ambassador for the SCLA:PUSH Project.

Óscar: I am here to demand Governor Gavin Newsom and CalGEM to take immediate action.

Interpreter: I am here to demand Governor Gavin Newsom and CalGEM to take immediate action.

Óscar: To protect our families living, working, and going to school near oil wells and active refineries in California.

Interpreter: To protect our families living, working, and going to school near oil wells and active refineries in California.

Óscar: Our community has always been the one to get affected, and the air we breathe has affected us in some ways.

Interpreter: Our community has always been the one to get affected, and the air we breathe has affected us in some ways.

Óscar: My personal experience is that I suffer a lot from allergies and have nosebleeds.

Interpreter: My personal experience is that I suffer a lot from allergies and have nosebleeds.

Óscar: For that reason, it's necessary that we end oil wells operations.

Interpreter: For that reason, it's necessary that we end oil wells operations.

Óscar: It's a priority for the health and safety of our community.

Interpreter: It's a priority for the health and safety of our community.

Óscar: To create a [unintelligible 00:45:04] future for the South of Los Angeles. Thank you.

Interpreter: To create a healthy environment for the South of Los Angeles. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Érika Morales, Dora Doria and Dulce Altamirano, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. You'll hear a notification when your line is not muted. At that time, please make your comment. Again, Érika Morales, Dora Doria and Dulce Altamirano. We'll continue, then. María Sánchez, Araceli Celestino, Xiomara Alfaro, Carmen Alonso and Christie Monjes. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Xiomara, please, make your comment.

Xiomara Alfaro: Hello?

Oneida: Hello, we can hear you.

Xiomara: Yes, good afternoon! Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Xiomara: My name is Xiomara, good afternoon! Thank you for giving me the chance to talk today. I'm the wife of an oil industry worker. Something positive I can say about this industry is that thanks to it, my family and I were lucky to be able to have good services, such as a house, food on the table, medical care, and everything that is necessary to live. I appreciate this.

My main worry is that all refineries will close, and, for this reason, there could be massive layoffs, which would cause much damage to the families that live here. I know the industry is trying to improve all existing issues and what people are talking about, but they also need to be given the chance to work on and improve these issues that have been going on. Thank you, because thanks to this, my husband has a job and we are fine. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Araceli, please make your comments.

Araceli Celestino: Yes, hi! Good afternoon! I'm Araceli Celestino. Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Araceli: Hello?

Oneida: We can hear you.

Araceli: I'm Araceli Celestino, I live here in the Los Angeles area. Three traffic lights away from my house, there is an oil-- I'm the leader of different community groups and I've been at several protests, several meetings to shut down this business, because in most groups where I've been, there are children with asthma, with skin spots, bleeding-- Well, a thousand things.

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For a long time, many years now, we've been doing these campaigns because my children, before this pandemic-- There's a school close by... What a coincidence that always around the oil and gas areas there are always supermarkets, recreational parks, schools for children. So, across this oil business is The Art School program for children. We always pass by that area; it's three traffic lights away from my house, somewhat isolated, but yes, the smell is constant.

We've been supporting this proposal for years now. At the time not with my family, but I have, to take that away. At that time, a petition sheet was made. We went house by house collecting signatures, many signatures, but that business is always, always there. There's no way it will close, there's a lot of money involved. It won't be shut down. Currently, I--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. We can't hear you.

Dulce Altamirano: Hello, good afternoon! My name is Dulce Altamirano. Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Dulce: Yes, good afternoon! Can you hear me?

Oneida: We can hear you.

Dulce: Okay. Good afternoon, my name is Dulce Altamirano and I appreciate this chance to give our opinion in Spanish. I live in the Wilmington area, a very affected zone. I sadly see how this industry affects me and my children. My son has a sore throat, we all have sore throats and headaches. I'm in treatment and my throat is [unintelligible]. I'm in treatment... I've been in this new speech treatment because I was affected by the emissions of the oil wells.

I'm live among many oil wells. There's one across us, one behind, one next to us, everything around our house, and this really affects the kids. What future are we leaving them? I would like that people think about all this and not only about money, but about health.

I have throat problems, as I said. I suffer from headaches and nauseas, because when I open my door in the morning, the first thing I smell are different odors, which I don't even know what they are... Gases, chemicals, I don't know, but there are many oil wells around. If oil wells will be kept, the companies should implement the 2,500 feet of distance between houses and oil wells, because they really affect our health.

They're fighting for money, not for health. I don't understand how they can make money on children's health. I hear car, truck noises, like--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Can you please say your name and then leave your comment?

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Ernesto Díaz: Hello! My name is Ernesto Díaz, I am worker at Local 433. I live here in Los Angeles. I hear the requests of the people that are against the industry, but they must think about the workers and the people that **[unintelligible 00:53:12]** to work, that drive a long way, the price of gas will increase and the people here is barely making it, and workers will be harmed. What will happen to those workers who have been doing this for many years, and their families? What other skill do they have? That's the only thing they know how to do. Think about the workers' families and don't hurt the workers. I believe that oil companies can reach a middle point and make an agreement. There're new oil technologies. I think we can progress together and help each other, but we need to work together.

Thank you very much. I'm here for the workers and think about this, because gas will go up to \$6, \$7 the gallon, and people that need to drive long distances will be hurt. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Paula Andrea Torrado Plazas, Maritza Fernández, Francisco Aragón, María Williams and Ethan Senser, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Paula, please make your comment.

Paula Torrado: Good afternoon.

Oneida: Hello, good afternoon! We can hear you.

Paula Torrado: My name is Paula Torrado, I'm with the Los Angeles Physicians for Social Responsibility organization, as Air and Toxics Policy Analyst. I've been working with Southern Central Los Angeles community members to develop our collective capacity to understand and analyze air pollution load through our air quality academies of the SCLA:PUSH project.

During the last year, we've collected data on the quality of the air in all Southern Central Los Angeles communities and around the Jefferson and Murphy oil sites, in collaboration with residents and allies.

Based on the data collected by the community, data from existing regulating agencies, and the experiences of the Southern Central Los Angeles community, we've been able to corroborate that air pollution emitted by oil operations continue to threaten the health and life quality of the residents of the community. Our community project continues to prove that communities that live next to incompatible land uses, such as oil operations, keep breathing toxic air.

Even though air monitoring is essential, real actions are required to eliminate the health and safety threats of oil operations, such as the buffer area of 2,500 feet of distance.

For decades, communities of color and of low income living in Los Angeles have faced and continue to face an overabundance of hidden health threats in their neighborhoods due to the oil and gas operations located in their backyards. Recent community health surveys have reported symptoms such as severe fatigue, cough, nosebleed, and psychological stress.

The communities that have been overloaded with health threats due to toxic air coming from oil, with a health profile of higher rate of asthma and respiratory diseases, are more susceptible to COVID-19, deepening more and more health inequalities. The commu--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Maritza, please make your comment.

Maritza Fernández: Good afternoon! Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Maritza: Good afternoon! My name is Maritza Fernández, I'm a member and an air quality ambassador. I've had the chance to be in the areas where there are oil wells and where there are gas exhausts, and you can clearly feel the smell mixed with the different aromas, like strawberries and roses, but the predominant smell is always burnt oil. I've been in that area, where I started to have allergies and difficulty breathing while visiting. In schools, that indescribable smell, which is strong enough to know it's not clean air, comes out of the drainpipes.

We're only thinking about how people working in the oil well areas will survive, but at the long term, what will their children have? In 10 to 15 years... An irreversible cancer? An untreatable status asthmaticus? An untreatable public health issue at the Los Angeles county level? We also have to think about these things.

The buffer area of 2,500 is only a buffer, not a cure. We'll not remove the problem completely, but it can be minimized. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Hugo García, Juaquino Juriel, María Williams, Magdalena, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Hugo García: Good afternoon. My name is Hugo García and I'm the campaign coordinator of People Not Pozos against Allenco

Energy in the University Park community in Southern Los Angeles. For decades, frontline communities throughout California, mainly communities of color and of low income, have led the fight against the toxic oil industry that contaminates our air and threatens our health.

As an increasing set of public health data affirms the health impacts experienced by the frontline communities that live near oil and gas wells, we must push elected leaders and policymakers to start a true leadership for climate justice, and to prioritize health and public safety.

We also encourage CalGEM, for its English acronym, to work with other state agencies to prepare a comprehensive equitable transition plan. We need the gradual removal of oil production in the places most affected by fossil fuel extraction. We must create a buffer area of 2,500 feet for health and safety purposes that stops

fossil fuel extraction close to households, schools, and other sensitive sites. It's time to protect health and safety. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Joaquino, please make your comment.

Joaquino Juriel: Hello, good afternoon! My name is Joaquino Juriel. I'm a member of Insulators Local 16. I've been working in the oil and gas industry for about 28 years, so I appreciate its existence, given that thanks to this industry, I have a good present and a good future. I request that these oil and gas industries be maintained, given that they provide the best jobs with benefits and fair wages for the communities, and this is essential for cities, counties, states, and especially for the country.

Having this industry giving and providing jobs is a win-win. I've been in this industry for 28 years and, whatever it may be, I'm healthy. After 28 years, I say it with confidence. I'm in favor of continuing and protecting the gas industry, and I'm against the AB-345 proposal, I repeat. I want to state that I respect everyone's feelings and thoughts. However, this is my position at this time. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes. Please say your name and then leave your comment.

María Elvira Williams: Good afternoon. My name is María Elvira Williams. On behalf of Crown Citizens for Energy. Crown Citizens for Energy is a local coalition that represents thousands of small businesses, chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, and residents that support a safe and reliable oil and gas industry in Crown county. Thank you for giving me the chance to talk here today.

We're very proud to be part of a community that produces most natural gas and oil in our state. The almost 40 million residents of California still use huge amounts of oil and gas on a daily basis. We want to see that energy produced here and not in foreign countries, where human rights and environmental standards are very poor.

The oil and gas industry in California already operates under some of the most strict regulations in the world. We urge you to base your decision with respect to this industry on honest scientific analyses and facts. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes. Fidel Gómez, Jess González, Oscar Deltir and Salvador Flores, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. You'll hear a notification when your line is not muted. Fidel, please make your comment. Fidel, your line is not muted, please make your comment.

Fidel Gómez: Alright. Good afternoon. I'll begin with a saying: "A clean city is a healthy city", and I say that a clean environment is a healthy community. The reason that has made me take an interest in the environment is that I live in an area where we see a well on every corner, and these are located among homes. I've seen this with my own eyes in the last seven years around Wilmington.

I know that our neighbors work in the oil industry, in refineries, but we should also take into account that these large industries, regardless of the residents' health, have been and are making more and more wells close to homes, schools, churches, and

places of recreation. We see this everyday, and these wells cause what I will mention in a bit.

Myself, my friends and my relatives, we all suffer from asthma and have respiratory problems. My neighbors, my friends, whom I know personally and who have worked in the oil industry, suffer from asthma and have skin problems.

I only ask that these wells be placed not so close to our homes, at least, as people have already mentioned, at 2,500 feet away from our homes. How is it possible that we don't have awareness, brothers? How can we be in favor of these wells being placed so close to us, on the corner of our houses, these wells that bring to our--

[audio cut]

Oneida: Thank you. Yes. Ignacio Gutiérrez, Jack Kesler, Ana Hernández and Guadalupe Hernández, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Jess, please make your comment.

Jess González: Hello?

Oneida: Hi! We can hear you.

Jess González: Good afternoon. My name is Jess González, Vice-president of the Sí Se Puede organization in Central Valley, and together with our president, Jack Kesler, we offer the following comments. Sí Se Puede has a history of fighting in the interest of disadvantaged communities who cannot live a more comfortable, healthier and calmer life.

The implementation of new laws and policies is aimed at improving life quality, but many times the points of view of those who will be affected by these policies are not taken into account.

Before considering any policy, we must be very aware that Central Valley, like the state in general, is currently living an awful experience full of uncertainty due to different dangers. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, a high percentage of residents have lost their jobs and are suffering due to their low wages to support their families.

The implementation of drastic policies in these times can endanger even more those many families that face economic struggles day by day.

At the same time, we must take into account that before coronavirus became a pandemic, our people had not completely recovered from the great recession in 2007, in 2009. We must be very aware of the virus threat and the chaos that this disease has caused the economic stability of the people.

For these reasons, we're all living in great uncertainty. Our organization, Sí Se Puede, is not against the implementation of new policies. Many jobs within the oil industry are from the union and offer workers better income, but we ask that the scientific aspects involved in the implementation of new policies be studied beforehand.

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

It's not the right time to make counterproductive changes. Sí Se Puede supports--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Ignacio, please make your comment.

Ignacio Gutiérrez: Hello? Good afternoon. My name is Ignacio Gutiérrez and I'm here as member of the Southern Central Los Angeles Community. I'm an air quality ambassador for the SCLA-PUSH Project. For many days, I worked near the Mercy plant, and every day I left there with a headache and an irritated throat.

For this reason, I think it's necessary to have a buffer area of 2,500 feet of distance between oil and gas operations and the places where people live, work, and study to protect the health and safety of our community. Thank you. Have a good afternoon!

Oneida: Thank you very much, Ignacio. Ana, please make your comments.

Ana Hernández: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Ana Hernández. I think the implementation of changes is really good, especially if these are aimed at taking care of the environment. At this time, my partner is the only one working, and my daughter and I depend on his job. She's one year old and, at the time, I'm unemployed due to COVID-19. Thanks to the company, we've been able to stay afloat economically, especially through this pandemic.

What really worries us is that these changes might leave him without a job. Not only my partner, but also many workers, many families like mine that depend on them keeping their job, on no reduction of hours, and all that. What we do ask all these companies is to take this into account. At the time, we're depending on them to bring food and to buy stuff for the house.

Work is very important. We want you to think about that and don't make any job cuts. These regulations and these changes should increase work and bring more jobs so that we can have more money to go to the doctor and for everything that is necessary. This is what many families need now. If your change is for this, I think it would be good for us. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Guadalupe Hernández, please make your comments.

Guadalupe Hernández: Hello. Hello, good afternoon! Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Guadalupe: Hello. My name is Guadalupe Hernández. First, I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to share my opinion. What I'd like to say is that we understand that there will be some changes. We understand this, but we don't want any layoffs. In fact, it's not that we don't want layoffs, we're afraid of layoffs, because we depend on the people that work in this.

My husband works in this industry and he's the only one providing for our family. We have four children, two with special needs, and for this reason I can't work. We depend on him for everything: to pay the rent, food, our children's pampers, you

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

know? With everything that's going on, with COVID-19, the worst thing that could happen is that worker lose their jobs.

That's all. But we also ask that you take into account that many people is affected by what's going on and suffer from asthma, with all this. I understand this because two of my children have asthma and others have respiratory problems, but with everything that is going on, will losing their job help?

You also need to take into account that we only depend on them. That's why we ask you, beg you, not to cut any hours and not to fire anyone. If there's a way to increase jobs, that would be much better. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Blanca Lucio, Lupe Martínez, Tonia McMillian and Ernesto Medrano, please press number two on the keyboard. Again, Blanca Lucio, is Blanca there? Blanca, please make your comment. Blanca, your line is not muted, please make your comment.

Blanca: Hello. And now? Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, we can hear you.

Blanca: Good afternoon. My name is Blanca. I'm here as member of the Southern Central Los Angeles community and I'm an air quality ambassador for the SCLA-PUSH Project. I'm here to tell the governor, Gavin Newsom, that the Southern Central Los Angeles communities live with oil drilling towers in their backyards and playgrounds, threatening the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink.

We're all here because we care about the same thing, the current and future wellbeing of our families. Oil drilling in our communities, and the air and water pollution it causes, threatens all this. It's necessary to have a buffer area of 2,500 feet of distance between oil and gas operations and the places where people live, work, and study to protect the health and safety of our community.

We need to end oil drillings and prioritize the health and safety of the community. We must plan a fair transition to create a resilient and thriving economic future for Southern Central Los Angeles, with healthy jobs for workers and clean air in Southern Central Los Angeles communities. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Joaquín Meneses, Maribel Mireles, Vanessa Moreno and Luis Andrés Pérez. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Joaquín, please make your comment.

Joaquín Meneses: Good afternoon. My name is Joaquín Meneses and I'm here to talk about the Southern Central Los Angeles community. Hello! Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, we can hear you.

Joaquín: I'm really worried about the fact that there's no clarity on this issue. The discussion is about keeping a distance of 2,500 feet between the communities and the oil activity. It's not about closing an industry. However, some people see above

this and put ahead their personal interests to protect their job, their family economy, and leave aside this community problem.

It's not only about the Southern Central area, it's about everywhere from Long Beach and San Pedro to Central Los Angeles. All these communities are affected by the high levels of contamination.

The oil industry has increased the vulnerability of our immune system. We must learn from this pandemic. This pandemic has taught us that it's a viral system, and that we are more affected. That's why it isn't possible to open the city of Los Angeles.

On the other hand, we must know that communities, such as Wilmington, are oil regions with a population of very low levels of income still, because not all residents work in the industry, not everyone works in the industry. We must know that it's important for the community's wellbeing to have 2,500 feet of distance from operations.

Indeed, we need to reinvent this industry, so we don't lose it; it won't be lost but changed. Thank you very much for giving me the chance to participate.

Oneida: Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Lupe: Yes, hello.

Oneida: Hello, yes. Please, say your name and **[unintelligible 01:20:11]**.

Lupe Martínez: My name is Lupe Martínez. I live in Kern county. I would like to make a comment about our community, about how we suffer due to contamination. Health here is terrible. Our children are suffering. We, the elderly, are suffering with all this contamination. And it isn't because of the current pandemic. I think that we have to ensure those areas of protection of 2,500 feet.

We need to find a way to work together, whether with the oil industry workers, other industry workers, the oil companies, and the different agencies, to try to find a fair transition. It's not about eliminating all jobs, but about finding a transition for those people who could be left unemployed.

I think that the most important thing to do is figuring out how to have sustainable industries, something else so that we don't have to depend on the oil and gas industries, like we do now, with all the problems they cause. In this case, I would say that I definitely agree with AB-345. I think it's necessary. Let's keep looking for a fair transition. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Rosalinda, please make your comment.

Rosalinda Morales: Hello! Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, thank you.

Rosalinda: You can hear me, right?

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

Oneida: Yes.

Rosalinda: Hello! Good afternoon. My name is Rosalinda Morales. I would like to thank CalGEM for this presentation and for giving me the chance to make a public comment as member of my community. I'm a member of the Echo Park neighborhood council. I'm also leader in the Vista Hermosa High community group, in the area where I live, also known as **[unintelligible 01:22:44]**, in Central Los Angeles.

I've lived here my entire life. My family has lived here, in this area, for 63 years, and I'm the third generation. I was born and raised here. We've always had oil wells here, because there are many oil wells in this area.

During the last four years, my community has worked tightly with CalGEM, because some time ago (four years ago), we've had many problems with two oil wells. They were deteriorating and emitting gases. We're constantly smelling that. There're many people here with asthma and other illnesses, also autoimmune diseases, and many people has died of cancer in this area.

We continue to work with my community and CalGEM and with the public health group, which is very important. These groups always participate in our meetings, because we also have a lot of building going on here. Given that building is a big thing here, we constantly have problems with the oil wells, because when constructions begin, there are always oil wells.

At the time, there's a large construction site down my street, which is a very small street and--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Dora Osoria, Erika Morales, Adela Moreno, Estela Ortega, Lorena Blashenski and Jorge Quintero. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone.

Erika, please leave your comments.

Erika Morales: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Erika: Good afternoon. My name is Erika Morales. I'm calling from Wilmington, California. I ask that the new regulations include the requirement of 2,500 feet of distance between households and oil and gas wells. In my city there too many wells close to homes, schools, parks, and to all of us. It's time to eliminate these health and environmental risks, if we want a better future for our families.

Please, take my comment into account. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Jorge, please make your comment.

Jorge Quintero: Good afternoon.

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

Oneida: Good afternoon, we can hear you.

Jorge: Good afternoon. My name is Jorge Quintero. I'm one of 4,000 carpenters that live and work at the refineries of the Southern Bay Area of Los Angeles county, local 562, to be more specific in the city of Long Beach. I also believe in protecting the environment and health of the community, but I'm also worried about the jobs and all the families that can be affected by the regulatory process that CalGEM is starting.

When I was 18 years old, obviously Latin-American, of low resources, I didn't have the chance to go to college, but thank God I found the opportunity to work at a refinery as member of the Carpenter Union. I'm proud to be able to say that I have a job where I even earn more than a professional, with medical benefits, with a pension, and most importantly, without college debts.

What I'm worried about is that this type of opportunities will not be present for the people of our community. Not many of us have the chance to go to college, and these jobs are good jobs that can get us out of poverty and into the middle class.

It would be really nice if everyone could live in a community with flowers and butterflies, but the truth is that not everyone can buy an electric car. Think about this, everyone's already talking about closing the oil industry, but 95% of their domestic items come from petrochemical products. Just think about that, whether we like it or not--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Lorena, please leave your comments.

Lorena Blashenski: Good afternoon. I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to express myself today. My name is Lorena and, as the wife of a worker of the oil and gas industry, I'm worried that the updating process for public safety and health may lead to a massive layoff of workers or to the closure of plants.

For over 25 years, this industry has given me and my children the possibility to have food, health and education. It would be very disappointing that, with my husband so close to retiring, we would be left in a situation of lacking what's necessary to live a dignified life.

That's why it's very important to see both sides of the coin. On the one hand, safeguarding the safety and protection of communities; but, on the other side, these changes may affect thousands of families that depend on this source of income to survive. Thank you very much and have a nice afternoon.

Oneida: Thank you, Lorena.

Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Dora Osoria: Good afternoon. My name is Dora Osoria. I'm a resident of the Wilmington community. I'm also here to request that the 2,500 feet of distance be established between wells and households, parks, and clinics.

People who talk about this industry are only thinking about money, but not about the residents' health. Most of these workers are not from our community, they are from other communities and choose work over health. I'm especially talking to you because my daughter-- I have a 17-year-old daughter who suffers from cough, and she's barely being studied because what's happening to her is something terrible.

So, I would like to know what's part of all that contamination produced by those wells. I would like for everything to turn out negative, but it's something under research, and what we ask is... We have 35 wells and we don't need more; we ask for those 2,500 feet of distance. Thank you for hearing my comment.

Oneida: Thank you. Ernesto Medrano, please leave your comments.

Ernesto Medrano: Good afternoon. My name is Ernesto Medrano. I'm a representative of the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. We also represent laborers in the energy industry. While consumers keep driving internal combustion vehicles, using natural gas to cook or to heat their homes, we will continue to depend on oil and gas.

We've supported political goals that support scientific studies based on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; we've collaborated with environmental justice organizations and clean energy companies.

Likewise, we widely acknowledge that it is our duty to reduce our oil dependency, but there's a human element in this. There are thousands of laborers in the state that can suffer a negative impact and, given our current situation, we don't want to see these laborers in the unemployment line.

We've supported the limitation of greenhouse gases emissions for 2030, and we've supported the electrification in the transport sector and network decarbonization, which will reduce the use of fossil fuels, because we refuse to support policies that cause the import of gas coming from regions where there are very poor levels of environmental protection and even worse working conditions. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Amanda Pantoja, Guadalupe Rivas, José Ramírez and Eduardo Rivera. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Guadalupe, please make your comment. Guadalupe, your line is not muted, please make your comment.

Guadalupe Rivas: Hello, good afternoon! My name is Guadalupe Rivas, from the ECHO organization. I'm here as member of the Southern Central Los Angeles community and I'm an air quality ambassador for the SCLA-PUSH Project.

I'm here to urge Governor Gavin Newsom to take immediate measures to protect the communities and families that live, work, and go to school near the oil wells and active refineries in California.

Over five million Californians live within a mile from an oil well. One third of them lives with the highest contamination levels in the state. In my personal experience, I live here in Southern Los Angeles, on Western and Adams. On Arlington and Adams

there are oil wells, and there's a school nearby that emanates a very fetid smell. Children can be contaminated; they are the most affected ones.

It's necessary to have a buffer area of 2,500 feet of distance between oil and gas operations and the places where people live, work, and study to protect the health and safety of our community. We ask that our health be taken into account, as well as the most affected communities in Southern Los Angeles. There are many wells around Los Angeles affecting our health on a daily basis. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Eduardo, please make your comment. Eduardo, your line is not muted, please make your comment.

Eduardo Rivera: Yes. Good afternoon. My name is Eduardo Rivera. I work and live here in Southern California. I would like to give my point of view as a worker. We work and we depend on the economy here in Southern California, which needs the oil and gas industry like blood and heart. It's necessary. Everyone drives. Every worker drives. All products come from China and from the other side of the United States, and all this requires oil and gas.

We need to think about the policies that we're trying to implement, which are negative for the working families, for the workers, and for what this industry represents throughout the United States, which needs that blood.

We need to think it through. It'll affect a lot of working people who depend on their jobs to support their families, to pay their insurance benefits, to have a pension when they can retire in the future. We all depend on our jobs and need those jobs.

Please, consider my opinion. I don't agree with these new policies. We need to prioritize the working people before these new proposals, and think of them and their families, and how these policies can affect the economy. In this situation with the coronavirus, it's important to keep the people working, to keep the people moving, and everything that comes with this.

Workers first, please. This is what I ask. Thank you for listening and taking my opinion into account. Have a nice day.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Amanda, please make your comment.

Amanda Pantoja: Hello! My name is Amanda Pantoja. I'm an organizer of the Accurate Water Action and resident of Southeastern Los Angeles. I would like to talk about the importance of having clean air to breathe. Breathing clean air allows us to keep working, walking, exercising, and living. When I breathe, I always take into account that I live in a community with low quality air. Breathing this air could damage my lungs in the future, potentially damaging my health forever.

Communities of color throughout the state are disproportionately affected by oil wells and refineries. This is how environmental racism looks like and it has happened long enough.

Today, there's a terrible history of disinvestments in communities of colors that has resulted in the prevalence of a dangerous oil and gas infrastructure in these

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

communities. To this day, many communities of color live in sacrifice areas created by unequal and racist policies.

In the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, where the ability to breath is attacked, it is even more important to protect frontline communities, such as those of Los Angeles, Craig and Santa Barbara. We demand more of our legislators and governors. We deserve a distance of 2,500 feet between oil and gas sites and households, hospitals, schools, and churches.

We must also fight for good employment opportunities that protect the workers and their families. We need to find solutions that bring money and food to our tables without damaging our health and environment. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Georgina Rivera, Rubén Rodríguez, Stephanie Robles and Pedro Santillán. Please press number two on your keyboard. Rubén, please make your comment.

Rubén Rodríguez: Hello? Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, we can hear you.

Rubén: My name is Rubén Rodríguez. Good afternoon, everyone! First, I would like to acknowledge the indigenous people of this Earth, who have that understanding and energy that are necessary to be able to ensure that we can all live together and healthier.

I would like to let you know that because something is convenient to you and allows you to live a better life, to have a better lifestyle, it does not mean that this is what's best for the Earth and for all our relatives with whom we share this space.

I've heard some of you talk about a better lifestyle, of being able to retire with the jobs provided by the oil industry. This industry provides a better life to you, but we're not taking into account the rest of our relatives, those who have no voice in this discussion, the animals, the plants, and the water we keep destroying.

Don't be stubborn, don't be silly, see the truth, don't sell your soul for some money. Regardless of your point of view in this subject, the truth is the truth. Regardless the amount of people that can hide the truth.

A very big problem is still going on. I come from this industry, I've worked in this industry. I looked with ignorance the lack of respect people had towards the Earth. We're not asking to shut down this industry. What we're asking is that changes be made, a back pressure between the industry and the community. Many people are taking this as--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you very much. Luis, please leave your comments.

Luis Pérez: Hello! My name is Luis Pérez. I'm the policy director of Plumbers UA-532. When we open our faucets, we know water comes out. When we go to our

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

kitchens, we can cook food for our families using gas stoves, and when we have to go to work, we put gas in our cars.

We depend on the industry more than we'd like to admit. Things are not as black and white as they look. Our members of UA-532 have worked over one million hours in the last two years. A great part of this has to do with the fact that we see each other as positive and productive partners who'd like to see our communities thrive. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Argelia, please leave your comments.

Argelia León: Good afternoon. Hello, my name is Argelia León and I work with the Oil and Gas Association in California and the Western states. Thank you for giving me the chance to participate in this important conversation. I think it's useful to start with what everyone agrees on. There's nothing more important than the health and safety of communities, where the men and women of our industry work, live, and raise their families.

Safety is deeply rooted in our industry's DNA. I would like to clarify that each project of our industry, from drilling a well to building a tank or pipeline, starts with great safety and much preparation of the workers and companies of our industry. In California, where our industry is more strongly regulated than anywhere in the world, we're proud that our trajectory works productively and collaboratively with diverse local, state and federal entities that regulate oil and gas operations.

We're also working to ensure that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Air Quality Management Local Districts and even the local Fire Department work with an extensive list of entities to certify that our operations check all boxes to guarantee environmental protections and safety in our community.

We ask people that please think about what they're suggesting. We're trying to do everything we can to make sure we're doing things right. We worry about the environment too.

We ask CalGEM and the community to support the implementation of science-based solutions and not get carried away by ungrounded information.

Oneida: Thank you. Nayamín Martínez, María de Lourdes Bartolo, Gastores Jesús Paladez, Marian Villalobos and Joaquín Santos. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Nayamín, please make your comment.

Nayamín Martínez: Good afternoon. My name is Nayamín Martínez. I'm the director of the Central California Environmental Justice Network. I just would like to tell those who want scientific evidence that our organization has carried out dozens of tests in communities located close to oil wells and storage tanks in Kern county.

We've analyzed these tests in scientific laboratories, and these results have been analyzed by scientists. We have reliable evidence that proves that people living at a close distance from these oil wells and tanks are breathing gases that cause cancer on a daily basis.

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

Gases like benzene... there's no safe limit for benzene. How can we ask those who have the bad luck of living in these households to stay at home now, to do **[unintelligible 01:46:04]** in a house where they're being poisoned every day? This is not fair. I also agree with those who have said that it's not fair to think, "My husband works in this industry". We must find fair jobs where people don't have to sacrifice their job because others are dying poisoned by cancerous gases.

This is not fair. We ask and demand the governor and CalGEM to approve the safety area of 2,500 feet. For the people who work in the oil industry and don't want to hear the truth, this would apply to new wells. So, if you work at a refinery, you wouldn't be affected. There would be no employment cuts. We demand that the 2,500 feet regulation be approved. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Joaquín, please leave your comments.

Joaquín Santos: Good afternoon. My name is Joaquín Santos and I'm the president of the Local Union **[unintelligible 01:47:16]** 13-09 here in Southern California. Thank God, the oil and gas industry maintains thousands of our workers with ongoing work. It provides us with good wages and benefits for our families.

The industry provides good safety measures to perform day and night work tasks. Unions also provide good training to perform well and protect ourselves when working in this industry.

Today we're here to support the oil and gas industry. This industry provides our families with commodities, such as driving to the market, travelling by plane, and going on business or family trips. We go to the doctor, we go everywhere, and we all depend on this oil industry one way or another.

Lastly, we beg you that any decision made in these hearings take into account the thousands of workers and their jobs, today and tomorrow, so as to avoid a negative impact on us. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Marian, please make your comment.

Marian: Good afternoon. My name is Marian. Thank you for giving me the chance to talk. I'm the mother of a worker of this place, and I understand the perspective of the other people with respect to contamination, but I would also like to point out that surveys' results and studies are always manipulated, depending on who is carrying them out. There really isn't scientific and definite evidence, because dozens are not enough to prove the acceptance level in the population.

Contamination levels are really high in many parts of this state. And there is a lot of people with asthma and allergies. It's not that simple to shut down these industries, because they provide good jobs and benefits, they help the economy and many people, including everyone who uses oil and oil derivatives.

Closing these industries would affect the economy throughout the county and also small and medium businesses that benefit from the circulating money. The current COVID situation is much more complex.

I think you should think of everything that would be affected. I propose that we all look for agreements to try to improve the conditions and management of pollutants, without affecting the economy that much, which is a really important factor at the time. Who knows how the situation will be in a few months or years? Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. María de Lourdes, please make your comment.

María de Lourdes: Yes. Good afternoon. My name is María de Lourdes, I'm a member of SCOT, in Southern Los Angeles, and a member of the air quality SCLA:PUSH project. I'm here to tell Governor Gavin Newsom and CalGEM to protect our communities that live and work near oil wells and active refineries in California.

Our community of color and the people of low income living in Southern Los Angeles have always been the most affected by the extraction of oil wells in our neighborhoods. Our Southern Los Angeles community lives with oil drilling towers in their backyards, close to schools, and parks.

Everything we breath affects us. I have a 15-year-old son who frequently has nosebleeds due to the poor air quality. We need a call for action. We need to end oil drillings, prioritize the health and safety of the community, and create a thriving future for Southern Los Angeles. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Yes, José Valenzuela Jr, Flor, Florencia, Aurora, Graciela, Irma Nuño and Esperanza Hinojosa. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. Sorry, we can't hear you. Let's continue with the following person. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Esperanza Hinojosa: Yes? Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, we can hear you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Esperanza: My name is Esperanza Hinojosa, and I live in the Wilmington area, California. I've lived here in this area for five years. I'm a volunteer at a community center where each day I can see people attend there with their children, and some of them are having asthma, allergies, and lung problems.

We can't simply ignore this community problem and think only about me or my family making money, or just wanting to make good money for my family. If 30% of the community is making good money at the expense of the other percent of the community getting sick, I think we're failing as human beings.

We must be more aware and look for formulas that could benefit everyone, so that workers don't lose their jobs. It's not about that. No one is saying oil companies will close. We're only saying to look for alternative way so that the community is not affected by the chemicals that are released to our communities on a daily basis.

There's no need of further studies. We can see how our community has been affected and how gases are being emitted every day, morning, afternoon, and night to our community. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you.

Sarah: Hi! Diana, I'm going to speak for just a moment.

It is 6:00 PM, original [crossed conversation], but we would like to [crossed conversation] if there is someone who has not yet spoken that would like to speak-- After that if there is anybody who would like to speak again-- We would like to hear from you-- [crossed conversation] We would like to see how many more people we can get in then before 6:30 PM. Oneida, would you like to give instructions about anyone who hasn't spoken to raise their hand?

Diana: It is 6:00 PM, original [crossed conversation], but we would like to [crossed conversation] if there is someone who has not yet spoken that would like to speak-- After that if there is anybody who would like to speak again-- We would like to hear from you-- [crossed conversation] We would like to see how many more people we can get in then before 6:30 PM.

Oneida, would you like to give instructions about anyone who hasn't spoken to raise their hand? Yes.

Oneida: If you would like to make a comment, and you still haven't, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Please, say your name and then make your question.

Ana Hernández: Yes? Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Ana: Good afternoon, everyone! My name is Ana Hernández. I would like to thank you for allowing me to give a public comment. I'm a resident of the University Park community. I'm here for the health of my mother, María Teresa Clímaco, who is 70 years old now, and also I'm obviously here for my own interest, for my health and the health of my neighbors, especially the children and the elderly who live only some feet away from the well that is here in our community, managed by Allenco.

I'm here to beg Governor Newsom and also CalGEM to build the barrier of 2,500 feet of distance to buffer the smells and harmful gases to our health. Today we've heard a doctor that sees the consequences of the effects of these invisible enemies. She's seen it in her patients. I thank the doctor for coming here so that people who doesn't trust scientific statistics stop denying the truth about the consequences and dangers of these chemicals that are released in these wells.

Our government is responsible for our wellbeing. I ask you to please take care of the public health of all communities affected. But I also understand the workers that need their jobs. It's not simply about taking away these people's jobs, because they also have families, and just like we are interested in our family's health, they are also

trying to ensure their families' wellbeing, because these companies pay their checks, and I understand this. I just ask authorities to look for an alternative.

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

César Aguirre: Hello, how are you? My name is César Aguirre. I work at the Central California Environmental Justice Network. I also have here another person who would like to leave a comment after me.

I live in Kern county. I know firsthand exactly how communities are affected when they live near oil wells, when there's a well behind their house that shakes the house so much, they can't even hang pictures, they can't sleep at night, they live near cancerous gases that cause nosebleeds, daily dizziness, severe allergies, and it's even worse where they are close to these sources of contamination due to the decisions made by these oil executives.

Just in the last week, a refinery here in Lamont, which is close to a middle school, was in breach for releasing toxic gases into the air close to where children play, and people live. For the executives it's easy to sacrifice people, but the workers using monitors to clear up gases at work know they don't want to use those monitors at home, and don't want they children to have those monitors at school.

Now, more than ever, we need to focus on reinforcing protections for the people, because it's not time to relax. Immediate protection is required. We wouldn't be doing this in a rich neighborhood; why are we discussing about doing this in low-income communities? It's insulting and disrespectful. It's something we need to change to teach communities they also deserve health. Thank you. Now I'll give the phone to the next person.

Gustavo Aguirre: Good afternoon! My name is Gustavo Aguirre, resident of Kern county. I just wanted to rectify that when Nayamin shared the fact that dozens of studies were carried out on the impact on the residents' health in Kern county, it's just a bit more than what has been done at the state level. Experts and scientists have provided CalGEM with information that approves and supports that 2,500 feet of distance are required to protect our health, the residents' health. I ask that the 2,500 feet of distance be approved.

I also understand the concern of the oil industry workers. I'm a farmer, and I've worked as a farmer for a very long time in the Chavez's Union. Cesar Chavez started a boycott against pesticides. Field workers, including myself, participated in this boycott against pesticides, and this reduced employment for ourselves, the farmers. But I didn't starve to death, because Cesar Chavez made me understand that my community's health, my health, and my family's health are more important than money.

I understand the workers' concern from my own experience as a field worker and a Union worker, but everyone's health is more important than money. There are many other ways. It has been mentioned that there should be a fair transition. The

government must provide funds so that, if workers are displaced from the oil industry or other, vocational trainings are offered to these people and these families, for them to be able to work in other industries. This is something that the government, you, CalGEM, and Newsom must include, because it's import--

Oneida: Thank you. Please say your name and leave your comment. Hello! Your line is not muted, please say your name and then make your comment.

Héctor Ochoa: My name is Héctor Ochoa, I'm an organizer of the Ironworkers' Union in the Los Angeles and Las Vegas area. I've worked in this industry for 27 years. My dream was to work at a refinery. I've worked in Wilmington, Long Beach, San Diego, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, California, and then in Las Vegas, Nevada. These oil wells have always existed, and we've always depended largely on refineries.

These refineries give us the chance to supplement our homes with many utilities we use, such as gasoline, the plastic plates that all women use, the gas we use to cook, a huge number of utensils that come from these refineries. I've worked in the industry for 29 years now and I've never had health issues, and neither has my family.

Our Ironworkers' Union sends us to the preview school, a school to learn how to work in the refinery environment. My opinion is that we shouldn't leave aside our community's health. We should reinforce the health and safety of our communities. That's my comment. Have a nice day. God bless you.

Oneida: Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. Hello, your line is not muted.

Aurora Sosa: Good afternoon.

Oneida: Yes. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Aurora: Good afternoon! Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Aurora: Good afternoon! My name is Aurora Sosa, I've been a member of the Wilmington community for over 24 years. I don't agree with having wells close to our homes, schools, and parks. Sadly, our community is already surrounded by refineries, and this is damaging the residents, who have respiratory problems, health diseases, and a history of cancer, like myself, because this makes me eight times more vulnerable to relapse.

I ask that a distance of at least 2,500 feet be established between wells and any place crowded with people, to protect the community's health and the environment against gas emissions. We need clean sources of energy to improve the quality of our lives. Thanks for your attention. Please take our lives into account when making this decision. Don't think only about the employees' benefits, because many of them don't live in these areas, they live in unpolluted places, that's why they're not affected. Thank you very much.

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

Oneida: Thank you. José, please leave your comment.

José García: Yes, good afternoon. Hi? Hello?

Oneida: Yes, please leave your comment.

José: My name is José García, I'm a worker in Ventura county, where I've worked in the oil industry for 30 years now. I would like to give my opinion. I'm against what you're trying to do now because the oil industry has been here in California for over 100 years and all our towns, where we live and that we're talking about being affected, were towns chosen by the state at that time to set up the industry in those areas.

We have grown as population and passed our limits, entering the industry's limits. I don't think it's fair that the industry be shut down. I have worked in the industry for 30 years. I'm a member of Local 585 of LiUNA laborers, and we've always worked with many new qualifications. We have to adapt to new laws and we continue adapting to laws to keep the public in good condition.

Please, not against this. We have to keep supporting workers and families, because this can cause a very bad domino effect in these times of COVID with so much unemployment. Thank you very much.

Oneida: Thank you. Could you please say your name and then leave your comment? Please.

Anabel Márquez: I'll say in the phone.

Oneida: Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Anabel: Can you hear me? I'm Anabel Márquez.

Oneida: Yes, we can hear you.

Anabel: I'm from Kern county, city of Shafter, a very small city. Two years ago, there were 250 oil wells near our schools, churches, houses, pistachio fields, strawberry fields, and near all the vegetables we have here in the city of Shafter, Kern county. One school used to be near an oil well, but right now there are five and not even 100 feet away from the school. I know we need them, we do need them, because we have always needed them, but it's an abuse, because they're making more and more wells.

Wells not only affect the Earth and trees, but also the fruit we eat, which you also eat. All this is bad for our health. What kind of future is ahead with all this contamination? Oceans, rivers, everything is contaminated. I'm not saying that the oil industry should shut down, but we need to find a solution for everyone to live in harmony and well.

I don't think it's fair that the industries, for having more money, for being more powerful, for brainwashing their workers, who have their pensions, have everything...

but we, as a community, don't even reach the age of 65, because we're dying of cancer. Nine, eleven-year-old children are dying of cancer, I say--

Oneida: Thank you very much. If somebody else would like to make a comment, please press the numeric keyboard and number two to leave a comment. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. We hear you.

Magdalena González: Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Magdalena: I'm Magdalena González and I live in Wilmington, California, where we have most of the wells in Los Angeles county. Many wells are next to households, causing asthma, respiratory problems, heart diseases, and cancer. Stop allowing the building of more wells that affect the health and environment. We need energy that doesn't contaminate and destroy the environment. Please establish a protection measure for those who live near oil and gas extraction plants. We're poor, but we deserve environmental justice. I wish your rules would include the 2,500 feet of distance between wells and households. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Graciela Ávalos, Magdalena González, Flor Braga, please press the numeric keyboard and number two. Again Graciela Ávalos, Magdalena González and Flor Braga, please say your name and then leave your comment. Your line is not muted, please say your name and then make your comment.

Víctor Rivera: My name is Víctor Rivera, I've lived in Wilmington for many years. I've seen the wells' emissions. The contamination caused by oil companies is very dangerous, there're always disasters in our area's refineries. Not long ago, about three years ago, one refinery exploded. They always have problems, **[unintelligible 02:14:11]** in the ocean. The oil industry causes so many problems to the environment, and this can't be denied. People in the oil industry are blinded. Workers are bought with money and they can't see how people are actually contaminated.

Everything that's going on with cancer, the increasing global warming, the greenhouse gases... The clean industry is thriving but, by supporting the oil industry, there're no efforts available for the transition to clean industries, where there are many well-paid jobs. What expenses will there be when there's no more air to breathe and when we can't even walk? Because the system is so drowned with these **[unintelligible 02:15:32]** genes, that these can't function anymore. This people don't live right next to the wells; these people are not thinking about the rest.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Please, say your name and then leave your comment. Your line is not muted, please say your name and then make your comment. We'll continue with the next person, Rubén, please leave your comment.

Rubén Rodríguez: Hello! It's Rubén Rodríguez again. I'd like to give this little piece of my mind in English, right? A lot of the people that are on here... I understand that you guys work for the industry itself, but it doesn't take away the facts. You can try to hide and sweep it underneath the rug. The truth is the truth, man, this is causing

damage to the people. This is causing damage to the animals. This is causing damage to the Earth.

Sarah: Can you slow down a little so we can translate? Interpret?

Rubén: Of course, no problem.

Sarah: Okay, Diana.

Rubén: Diana, I can translate it myself. What I'm saying is that I understand that some or many of you work for the same industry. As I said earlier, I myself worked in this industry. I was able to see the reality. That doesn't take away the truth. The fact is that we're damaging the planet, we're damaging the animals, we're damaging the plants.

There're different ways to get energy now, with all the technology that we have, and we have to respect the Earth, because, you know what? There's no other Earth, there's no other planet, not everyone has the capacity or ability to get one a rocket and leave this planet.

We're here, this is our house, this is our life, and we have to protect it. Thank you.

Sarah: Thank you. I'm sorry about that. Diana is having a technical issue. I'm going to try to get her back on but, Oneida, we want to keep going.

Oneida: Thank you. Graciela Ávalos, Magdalena González or Flor Braga, please press the numeric keyboard and number two. Again, Graciela Ávalos, Magdalena González or Flor Braga. Please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone.

Magdalena González: Good afternoon! Can you hear me?

Oneida: Good afternoon! Your line is not muted, please say your name and then make your comment.

Magdalena: Good afternoon, can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Magdalena: Can you hear me? Good afternoon, my name is Magdalena González and I live in Wilmington, California, where we have most of the wells in Los Angeles county. Many wells are next to households, causing asthma, respiratory problems, heart diseases, and cancer. Stop allowing the building of more wells that affect the health and environment. We need energy that doesn't contaminate and destroy the environment. Please establish a protection measure for those who live near oil and gas extraction plants. We're poor, but we deserve environmental justice. I wish your rules would include the 2,500 feet of distance between wells and households. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Graciela Ávalos or Flor Braga, please press the numeric keyboard and number two. If there's any other person who would like to make a

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

comment, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

María Sánchez: For whom? Name?

Oneida: Yes, please, say your name and then leave your comment.

María: Yes. My name is María Sánchez. I live in the city of Wilmington since 81. I've seen explosions in gas tanks. When the clouds come down, gases are released so they can be mixed up with low clouds. Can you hear me? Hello?

Oneida: Yes.

María: That's my main concern. I have a sister who had cancer, she's a cancer survivor, and I know a lot of people close to me who had cancer too, like a woman that lives across the street, who died. For some years now, I've been suffering from a lot of allergies. I'm buying medications. The doctor gives me medicines and I'm waiting to see what works for me. I'm spending my money. My main concern is that we have to stop the oil industry.

Why? Because Wilmington is a very small city and, with all the gases, the smallest thing creates a lot of smog. I'm tired of presenting pictures to the oil industry and the air agencies, and I see very little progress made by you, while we have to be here fighting. Most people make money, and those who are watching earn nothing. The risk is that we can get killed. This is what I'm worried about. I hope that our voices be heard. What's going on is dangerous, so please let's reach an agreement.

I understand that the people that work in refineries make a lot of money and live well, but the poor-- I'm an injured person since 93. I receive social security, and I'm suffering a lot because I don't have any money.

Oneida: Thank you very much. José, please make your comment. José, your line is not muted, please make your comment. We can't hear you now. If someone would like to make a comment, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Again, if someone would like to make a comment, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

José Ramírez: Hello? Can you hear me?

Oneida: Hi! Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

José: My name is José Ramírez and I'm here-- I'm a member of the LiUNA. I've worked in the industry for 25 years, and thanks to this industry, I've worked well, I've sent my kids to schools, I've supported my family with food, with benefits, with a pension, and, as I'm telling you, it's been 25 years. Where else would I find a job like this that covers my needs? Where else would I find a job that covers my family's needs? That's why I'm saying. Please don't make any decision without considering the workers, without considering the families that live in the area and work there too.

What will happen if this industry is removed and I have to go to work to [unintelligible 02:24:17] in San Diego or the Northern area? Because you say-- Please, make decisions taking families into account. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Abel, please make your comment.

Abel Rendón: Good afternoon. My name is Abel Rendón. Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes.

Abel: My comment is that-- I'm a worker in the Bay Area refineries. I've work as supervisor for almost 20 years. When we enter the tanks where products are stored, we enter under certain rules, under supervision, under safety procedures that we must follow; otherwise, we cannot enter. Likewise, I think that there should be a middle point in this to help the people that are suffering from health problems and the people we are trying to survive, like any other job you may have. There must be a middle point.

The same way the company imposes safety rules when we enter the tanks, the state is responsible for establishing rules for everyone that is suffering from diseases, while trying to provide employment and survival to the people who work in the industry. I believe that everyone here--

The most important thing here is the people's safety, I agree with that, but the inspections of pipelines must be honest, and the people should know how these inspections are conducted. People should have access to that. But I don't think that the entire industry should be shut down. I work in this and that's my opinion.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Participant: Am I online?

Oneida: Yes.

Participant: I agree with the person that has just spoken, a young man, for his voice. The thing is that many people work in different places, different cities, but those who live in the communities where there are oil wells, do it because [unintelligible 02:27:16], where we are not even granted permit to-- Even fences are being placed, so that we can't report what's going on with those oil wells. Why? Why not speak clearly?

We're not against it. It's good that there're families who make good money, it's good that there're families with retirements figured out, but we are people with low income who can't even have a good life when we reach an old age, because we don't even reach the age of 70, we're dying. It's not about taking the bread out of a worker's table or anything like that, it's simply reaching a neutral point, something that's good for all humans.

COVID is killing people, yes, this COVID virus... but how many people were killed by cancer before? How many, long before the virus? How much hunger has killed

File name: 052820-826205-DeptofWater-Creacion-Writtentranscript

people, and now COVID is being so marketed? No, we have to look back to prevent these things from happening. Let's help each other, let's work together, let's join for a good life quality for all humankind, because we all deserve to live in this world, and we must have a healthy life. This is what I feel and think.

We have to protect the planet, protect this Earth. Those who [audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you. Please press the keyboard number two. If someone would like to make a comment, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Thank you. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Graciela Ábalos: Hello?

Oneida: Hi! Your line is not muted. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Graciela: Yes? Good afternoon! My name is Graciela Ábalos. I live in the city of Wilmington, California. I moved to this house about 25 years ago, and there was an oil well in the backyard. The truth is that it's a very serious problem, but thank God, after a year living here, it was removed, but you know what's the problem? It's really bad for plants. Plants don't grow, they dry off. I've tried many different ways, but I wasn't able to grow them. Trees dry off. The soil is damaged, and nothing grows on it.

The same problems that I-- I wouldn't wish them to anyone. Don't allow this type of operations near houses. Please take my opinion into account, as member of a community that is affected by wells. Please, include protection, a protection barrier of 2,500 feet of distance between households and oil and gas wells. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you very much. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

José Valenzuela: Good afternoon everyone! I hope you're all fine. Thank for you this chance to talk. My name is José Valenzuela Junior. I was born in Mexico, and I've lived in the United States for 30 years in Cuyama Valley, where I have a beautiful family, two daughters, 14 and 12 years old, and my wife. They are my great pride. I'm an active member in the Directive Board of the Cuyama Valley primary and secondary school.

I have lived and worked here in the Valley since-- I arrived here 30 years ago, and I've worked in the oil field for 20 years. I would like to share with you that this step to becoming an oil worker has changed my life. When I finished high school, I started working in the **[unintelligible 02:32:24]**. Since then, this job has helped me have a great career, and with this career I've been able to take care of my family, to support them, to live in our home, and to live a pleasant life.

In these 20 years, I've been promoted and now I supervise nine people. For this job, you're not busy-- And go to school or college. It's a career that helps you and supports you with a good job. Based on my-- I can share with everyone firsthand that I'm sure that working in the oil fields--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you very much. Again, if someone would like to make a comment, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Flor Braga, please press the numeric keyboard and number two on your phone. Please, say your name and then leave your comment.

Dulce Altamirano: Again, this is Dulce Altamirano. I understand what you're saying. Please listen to what we're asking for. I'm not asking you to leave your jobs or shut down your places of work. We're asking for a minimum of 2,500 feet of distance, 2,500, for what? For us to be better. And it's not like we'll be immediately better, it would be more like a band aid.

I'm sick, my kids are sick. You're fighting for a job, and you can get a job anywhere else. You haven't thought that health is more important. Do you think, "oh, what would I do without my health?" No. Health is the most important thing we have as humans. It's health, not a job. You can get a job anywhere else; another job can make you get ahead.

I hear everyone saying, "I'm going on holidays there, I'm going there", **[inaudible 02:34:59]** your health, why? Because you have money. You're making money at the expense of the health of the most vulnerable ones. Thank you.

Oneida: Thank you. Gabriela, please leave your comments.

José Ojeda: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

Oneida: Yes, please, say your name and then leave your comment.

José Ojeda: Very good afternoon! My name is José Ojeda, and I'm a resident of Kern county. I would like to ask our governor to approve the 2,500 feet of distance from households, churches, clinics, and schools, because it's very important to stay away from the contamination of oil wells. I live near some wells. By some I mean 400 and more.

I work one hour and forty-five minutes away from home. When I return home early in the morning, I can see the gases that are released nearby. The flames of all the gases burning. And when I want to save energy at home, by opening the windows because it's hot here, to save energy, I can feel how our people breathe at night opening their windows. All these gases are burning in all those wells from the contamination of the wells. We can hear the noise of the wells pumps when working, taking out oil, this noise that doesn't let you sleep.

We're not asking to shut down the companies, we're asking for regulations, to implement new measures on how to extract oil without affecting the community, our children, our future, our rivers, our lakes, and our fishes in the lakes, to--

[audio cut-off]

Oneida: Thank you very much. There're no additional comments.

Sarah: Okay.

Interpreter: Thank you, no additional--

Sarah: [unintelligible 02:37:46] This is Sarah Rubin again wrapping up our CalGEM talk with [unintelligible 02:37:55] meeting.

Interpreter: This is Sarah Rubin again wrapping up our CalGEM talk with meeting.

Sarah: For those who are interested in carrying out and attend these meetings [unintelligible 02:38:05], we'll hold another digital public meeting [unintelligible 02:38:07] on June 2.

Interpreter: For those that feels who are interested in carrying out and attend these meetings, we'll hold another digital public meeting on June 2.