

SB 4 will not protect our water, air, or health

Senate Bill 4 and the regulations being drafted by DOGGR, the state Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, will not protect our water, air, health or environment. SB 4 allows DOGGR to issue fracking permits to oil companies. Fracking is inherently dangerous, and no amount of regulation can make it safe. Each fracking permit issued by DOGGR is another threat to our health and safety. Among the many shortcomings:

Regulations will not prevent well failure: Regulations cannot prevent well failure. A portion of wells will inevitably crack and leak over time. Studies in other states show that as much as 40 to 50 percent of wells will fail, and fracking increases the risk of well failure, inevitably leading to water contamination.

The state has ignored calls to complete an environmental impact report: DOGGR is moving ahead with fracking permits without even waiting for their study on the environmental impacts to be completed. Any fair and complete study on the effects of fracking would conclude that the risks of fracking are too great to allow such dangerous practices to proceed.

No restrictions on where fracking can take place: Under state regulations, fracking can take place anywhere. These dangerous practices sometimes occur within a few feet of homes, schools, or hospitals.

No restrictions on the kinds of chemicals that can be used: The state regulations do not put any limits on the kinds of chemicals used, no matter how dangerous. Many of the chemicals that are found in fracking fluids can cause cancer or other serious illnesses.

No restrictions on the amount or the source of water that can be used: California's historic drought is putting stress on the state and county's agriculture. Fracking would make matters worse by diverting millions of gallons of freshwater for fracking operations and potentially contaminating other water resources. The state regulations don't put any restrictions on how much water can be used, or where the water is drawn from.

Air pollution remains unaddressed: State laws and regulations do nothing to restrict the air pollution that results from fracking operations. Because fracking operations rely on air toxics such as benzene, formaldehyde, and methanol, nearby communities are at risk of exposure.