

CALIFORNIA'S TOUGHEST-ON-THE-PLANET OIL & NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION REGULATIONS PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

Nearly two dozen local, state, and federal government agencies have oversight authority over California oil & natural gas operations

Background: A recent <u>report</u> made an flawed connection between low birth weight and oil and natural gas production. Pinpointing direct health outcomes to one highly regulated activity ignores the fact that are many socioeconomic variables that can impact public health, such as income levels, underlying health conditions, access to quality prenatal care, and education. Examining these types of health care access inequities would better serve public health. California has the nation's, if not the world's, most stringent laws governing oil and natural gas production, proving that responsible production can provide affordable energy to consumers while protecting the environment.

NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE FOUND NO ADVERSE HEALTH IMPACTS CAUSED BY OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION. PUBLIC POLICY SHOULD BE DICTATED BY SOUND SCIENCE THAT HAS UNDERGONE PEER REVIEW.

 California already has the strongest emission control protections including: vapor recovery and control, leak detection and repair that exceed federal regulations, a mandatory tax on greenhouse gas emissions, and community air monitoring.

<u>Study</u>	Conclusion	Conducted by
Inglewood Oil Field Communities Health Assessment	There was no statistically significant difference in all factors studied in Inglewood oil field communities when compared to Los Angeles County	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Health and Safety Risks of Oil and Gas Facilities in Los Angeles County	Studies show no relationship between oil and natural gas facilities and adverse health effects. Study also stated that "doing away with oil and natural gas operations would have <u>no</u> appreciable effect on public health"	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Los Angeles County Oil and Gas Strike Team	Found the health risk of living near oil and gas facilities as "LOW"	Los Angeles County multi- agency/department team
Study of Neighborhood Air near Petroleum Sources - Ongoing	Although study is still ongoing, some new results show air quality is sometimes in the "good" range, sometimes falls into the "moderate" range and measures for individual particulates remain well within the "safe" range for an overall 8-hour standard.	California Air Resources Board

Last updated: June 24, 2020

THE ANALYSIS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF EMISSIONS FROM PORTS AND NEARBY MAJOR FREEWAYS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT CALIFORNIA OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCERS ARE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IN MEETING THE STATE'S AGGRESSIVE CLIMATE GOALS.

- A <u>Los Angeles Times article</u> noted that in Southern California, "port ships are poised to become the region's largest source of smog-causing pollutants in coming years."
- National Geographic recently reported on the health impacts of foreign oil tanker ships idled off California's coast during the COVID crisis: "University College London estimate(s) that every day this 24-ship fleet idled, it spit out six tons of nitrogen pollutants, a quarter ton of sulfur pollutants, and about 290 pounds of PM2.5—the fine particles that have been correlated with higher risk of lung and heart diseases, as well as with worse outcomes from COVID-19. The tankers' PM2.5 emissions amount to a third of what the Port of Los Angeles, one of the largest sources of pollution in the city, produces on an average day."
- In late 2019, California Air Resources Board announced that all businesses covered by the state's cap-and-trade program, which includes California independent oil and natural gas producers, have fully met their obligations for compliance in 2018 achieving a 100 percent compliance rate. The program uses multi-year compliance periods to provide companies additional flexibility. 2018 marks the first year of the final compliance period (2018–2020) under AB 32 and 100 percent of the companies were verified to be holding the required minimum number of allowances under the cap-and-trade regulation.

EXTREMISTS WILL USE THIS FLAWED REPORT TO PUSH FOR SETBACKS, WHICH ARE INCREASED DISTANCES BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS HOUSING AND HOSPITALS. SETBACKS HURT THE STATE'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, BLOCK ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ENERGY AND HOUSING, WILL REDUCE VITAL TAX REVENUE, AND EXPOSE THE STATE TO EXPENSIVE LITIGATION.

- Buffer zones work both ways. By restricting where infrastructure can be built, policymakers'
 hands are tied in solving the state's housing affordability crisis.
- By eliminating California production, the state will rely more on imported oil produced without
 the state's strict environmental protections. California will also lose quality careers and vital tax
 revenue to fund vital public programs, such as health care, when the state faces a staggering
 \$54 billion deficit.
- Several studies, including the <u>Legislature's own non-partisan economic analysis</u>, have shown expensive risks, including costly litigation, for enacting an arbitrary setback. The <u>Legislature's economic analysis</u> found that statewide legislation to enact a setback would cost the state up to \$3.5 billion and cautioned against expensive legal challenges.

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