

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 30 - 31, 2013**  
Prepared on May 10, 2013

**ITEM NUMBER:** 17

**SUBJECT:** LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS HYDRAULIC FRACTURING  
PANEL DISCUSSION

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On May 6, 2013, staff Engineering Geologist, Grant Himebaugh, gave a presentation at a League of Women Voters Panel Discussion on Hydraulic Fracturing at the San Luis Obispo City Library. Other presenters were Tim Kustic, director of the Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), -and Dr. David Chipping, emeritus California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, geology professor.

Mr. Himebaugh's presentation covered the Water Board's regulatory role, the site-specific risk factors associated with hydraulic fracturing, and how California's risk factors differ from other areas of the country. He illustrated that California's Monterey Formation shale is projected to contain oil at depths of at least 10,000 feet, that California has relatively little of the more problematic natural gas deposits, that our regulatory framework is tighter, and that our political environment is more responsive than in other states.

Mr. Kustic's presentation covered the historic use of hydraulic fracturing, the evolution and use of directional drilling practices, and the engineering practices providing environmental protection.

Dr. Chipping's presentation covered the issues of petroleum leases, local permitting, drilling site setbacks, and potential problems with characteristics of produced water. All three presenters were in agreement that environmental risks from hydraulic fracturing in California are significantly less than in other areas of the country. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion where written questions from the audience were addressed.

Grant Himebaugh will be available at the Board meeting to answer questions.