

Development of Model Criteria for Groundwater Monitoring Related to Oil and Gas Activities



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Presentation Overview

- Purpose for Today's Meeting
- Background on Laws and Regulations
- SB 4 Requirements for Model Criteria
- Timeline for Development of Model Criteria

Purpose for Today's Meeting

- Present an overview of the proposed process for developing model criteria.
- Gather stakeholder and public perspectives, ideas, and concerns.

Background on Laws and Regulations

- **DOGGR Draft Regulations – January 2013**
 - Focused primarily on well construction safeguards
 - Did not include groundwater monitoring
- **2013 Well Stimulation Legislation**
 - Public concern initiated several different bills in the state legislature
 - SB 4 (Pavley) ultimately passed and signed into law in late 2013

SB 4 Requirements

- **DOGGR to adopt regulations specific to well stimulation**
 - Final regulations by 2015
 - Interim regulations (currently) include groundwater monitoring requirements
- **State Water Board to implement regulatory program for groundwater monitoring of oil and gas-related activities**
 - Develop “model criteria” for groundwater monitoring
 - Implement regional groundwater monitoring program by 2016
 - Funded by oil and gas operation fees

SB 4

Development of Model Criteria

- Model criteria is being developed in consultation with:
 - DOGGR
 - Technical Experts
 - Public Stakeholders
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to consult with experts and provide written recommendations to State Water Board staff
- U.S. Geological Survey collecting and analyzing data and information to help develop model criteria

SB 4

Development of Model Criteria (cont.)

➤ Model criteria covers:

- Operator-required groundwater monitoring near wells subject to well stimulation
- Regional-scale monitoring to be implemented by State Water Board

➤ Model Criteria to include:

- Methods for monitoring
- Chemical analyses
- Frequency and duration of monitoring
- Areas to monitor

Proposed Timeline

- **August 2014** - Public stakeholder kickoff meeting(s)
- **Mid-Oct 2014** - Public stakeholder meeting with technical experts to allow input to model criteria design issues (led by LLNL)
- **January 2015** - LLNL to submit written recommendation report to State Water Board staff to consider

Proposed Timeline (cont.)

- **Early 2015** – State Water Board staff to release draft model criteria for public review
- **By July, 1 2015** - Water Board adoption of final model criteria
- **January 1, 2016** – State Water Board begin regional groundwater monitoring

Additional Information

- **State Water Board Web Site**

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/groundwater/sb4.shtml

- **DOGGR Web Site**

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/WellStimulation.aspx#Item1>

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