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January 30, 2015

Mr. Thomas Howard
Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee oversight hearing on Senate Bill 4 (Pavley, 2013) Implementation

Dear Mr. Howard,

I am writing to request your or your representative's participation in a hearing of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee to be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the California State Capitol, John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203).

The purpose of this hearing is oversight of the implementation of SB 4 (Pavley, 2013) regarding well stimulation activities in California's oil and gas fields.

As you know, well stimulation in California has been conducted for over one year under the Department of Conservation's (DOC's) interim well stimulation regulations, developed pursuant to SB 4, which remain in force. Additionally, the permanent well stimulation regulations are now in place, formal agreements have been reached between the DOC and other regulators – including the State Water Resources Control Board – regarding well stimulation, the first volume of the independent scientific study of well stimulation in California has been released, the development of the model groundwater monitoring criteria is underway, and the draft Environmental Impact Report for well stimulation has been released and is open for public comment. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the members of the committee an overview of the status of activities undertaken by the Water Boards pursuant to SB 4. In particular, this should include:

- 1) Activities by the Water Boards under the interim well stimulation regulations in 2014,
- 2) The Water Boards' efforts to develop the model groundwater monitoring criteria,
- 3) The Water Boards' Memorandum of Agreement with the DOC, and

- 4) Additional ongoing activities both near and long term related to SB 4 (2013) implementation by the Water Boards.

The California Council on Science and Technology, the California Natural Resources Agency, and Department of Conservation and stakeholders from industry and the community have also been invited to testify.

I look forward to and appreciate your participation. Please contact Katharine Moore with the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee at (916) 651-4116 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Fran Pavley, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

cc: Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Matt Rodriguez, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Tara Dias-Andress, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs, California Environmental Protection Agency
Robert Egel, Legislative Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Brown