



News Advisory

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD | 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P. O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | www.waterboards.ca.gov

Bakersfield Public Meeting Set August 7 to Discuss Groundwater Monitoring in Areas of Oil and Gas Production *Groundwater Monitoring Model Development Requirement of SB 4*

**For Immediate Release
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(Day of Event)**

WHAT: Public Meeting on Model Groundwater Monitoring in Areas of Oil and Gas Production: On August 7, The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will host a public stakeholder meeting to develop groundwater monitoring model criteria in Bakersfield to evaluate if ongoing well stimulation activities (such as hydraulic fracturing or fracking) are impacting groundwater resources. The meeting will allow input from public stakeholders as required by [Senate Bill 4 \(SB 4\)](#) (statutes of 2013). SB 4 governs well stimulations and requires the State Water Board to establish rules and standards for groundwater monitoring. This model criteria is intended to ensure regulators, local health officials and the public have representative monitoring data to better identify if a groundwater has been impacted. Information on this effort can be found [here](#) on the State Water Board's website. The agenda for the public workshop can be found [here](#).

Joining the State Water Board at the August 7 meeting will be Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and Regional Water Boards. The State Water Board has the responsibility to develop model criteria for groundwater monitoring to evaluate if ongoing well stimulation activities (such as hydraulic fracturing or fracking) are impacting groundwater resources.

WHERE & WHEN: August 7, Kern County Supervisors Chambers in Bakersfield:

- The public meeting will be at the **Kern County Board of Supervisors Chambers**, 1115 Truxton Avenue, Bakersfield from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- This is the first of several public and scientific expert meetings. Following these meetings and input from the community, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is expected to offer recommendations based on scientific assessments to the State Water Board by January 2015. The State Water Board will release the draft model criteria for public review in early 2015, with consideration and adoption by the board scheduled by June 30, 2015.

BACKGROUND: SB 4 requires the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to adopt regulations specific to [well stimulation](#). Interim emergency regulations became effective January 2014, while final regulations will be in place by 2015. SB 4 also requires the Water Boards to develop model criteria for groundwater monitoring (model criteria) by July 2015. This public meeting is the start of that process. The model criteria is to cover both operator-required groundwater monitoring for oil and gas well(s) subject to well stimulation treatments and regional monitoring.