

# ASSEMBLYMEMBER AL MURATSUCHI

66<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 2179 □ SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

3424 CARSON STREET, SUITE 450 □ TORRANCE, CA 90503

WWW.A66.ASMDC.ORG

## AB 345 (Muratsuchi): Oil & Gas Health and Safety Regulations FACT SHEET

**Sponsor Contact:** Ingrid Brostrom, (510) 480-2329

**Staff Contact:** Jared Ferguson, (916) 319-2066

### **BACKGROUND**

California does not currently restrict how close oil and gas extraction activities can occur in proximity to sensitive receptors such as schools, homes, and hospitals. On November 19, 2019, the Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) – formerly the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources – issued a press release announcing its intent to “establish a transparent set of rules designed to protect residents and communities near oil and gas extraction sites.” CalGEM stated that it planned to “consider a range of protective measures, including prohibiting oil and gas activities within close proximity of homes, schools, hospitals, and parks.” There is no statute or other directive to provide guidance and criteria to CalGEM for its planned rulemaking process.

### **PROBLEM**

Nearly five and a half million Californians—mostly people of color—live within one mile of an oil or gas well. Studies link proximity to oil and gas wells to increased risk of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, pre-term births and high-risk pregnancies, and cancer. Oil and gas extraction produces air toxics, including volatile organic compounds like benzene and formaldehyde, fine and ultra-fine particulate matter, and hydrogen sulfide. Other risks include water contamination, noise pollution, spills of toxic chemicals, and explosions.

Kern and Los Angeles Counties account for more than 80 percent of the overall oil production in California, and thus bear the brunt of its health and safety hazards. Of the approximately 5.4

million Californians who live within a mile of one or more oil and gas wells, one-third live in areas of the State most burdened by environmental pollution and 92 percent of Californians living in these heavily burdened neighborhoods are people of color.

In 2015, as a result of Senate Bill 4 (Pavley), the California Council on Science and Technology conducted an analysis of the health and environmental impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing. The report recommended a health and safety buffer zone between sensitive land uses and oil and gas wells in order to protect the health and safety of communities where neighborhood drilling occurs.

### **SOLUTION**

AB 345 provides criteria to help guide CalGEM's rulemaking process to protect residents and communities near oil and gas extraction sites. AB 345 includes measures to:

- 1) Enhance public participation in the regulatory process,
- 2) Require the Natural Resources Agency to establish an environmental justice program, and issue EJ grants, dependent on appropriated funds.
- 3) Direct CalGEM to establish a minimum setback distance between oil and gas activities and sensitive receptors, including the consideration of a 2,500-foot setback distance for schools and playgrounds for possible inclusion in the regulations.

### **SUPPORT**

Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (Sponsor)

Voices in Solidarity Against Oil in Neighborhoods  
(Sponsor)  
350 Bay Area Action  
350.org  
350 Riverside  
350 Silicon Valley  
350 San Diego  
350 South Bay Los Angeles  
5 Gyres Institute  
7th Generation Advisors  
Alliance of Nurses For Healthy Environments  
Amazon Watch  
American Federation of Teachers #1931  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
Audubon California  
Breast Cancer Action  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Business for Good San Diego  
California Environmental Justice Alliance  
California Federation of Teachers  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
California League of Conservation Voters  
Californians Against Fracking  
California Releaf  
California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
California School Employees Association  
California State PTA  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Environmental Health  
Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education  
(COARE)  
Central California Asthma Collaborative  
Central California Environmental Justice Network  
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Center  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Coalition for Clean Air  
Comité Progreso de Lamont  
Committee for a Better Arvin  
Committee for a Better Shafter  
Committee for Green Foothills  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Consumer Watchdog  
Courage Campaign  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Earthworks  
EJ 58 of Cafe Coop  
Environment California  
Environmental Health Coalition  
Environmental Justice Collaborative of Kern  
County/Mural Arts

Environmental Working Group  
Fathers and Families of San Joaquin  
FracTracker Alliance  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Fossil Free California  
Greenfield Walking Group  
Greenlining Institute  
Greenpeace, USA  
Hastings Environmental Law Association  
Heal the Bay  
Indivisible South Bay LA  
Kiss the Ground  
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability  
Mi Familia Vota  
Mothers Out Front  
National Parks Conservation Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NextGen California  
Northern California Recycling Assoc.  
Oil Change International  
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles  
Planning and Conservation League  
Plastic Pollution Coalition  
Promesa Boyle Heights  
Rootskeeper  
Sacred Places Institute  
San Diego Labor Council Environmental Caucus  
Save Our Shores  
Service Employees International Union-CA  
Seventh Generation Advisors  
Sierra Club California  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education  
(SCOPE)  
Students for Economic and Environmental Justice (SE EJ)  
Sunflower Alliance  
Sunrise Movement Bay Area  
The Climate Center  
Transition Albany  
UPSTREAM  
Voices for Progress  
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation  
Zero Waste USA