

Senate Bill 467 (Weiner): End Fracking and Dangerous Drilling in California

Don't let big oil continue to harm our low-income communities of color for profit!

SB 467 stops the most destructive oil and gas processes, called “Well Stimulation Treatment”, establishes common-sense rules to protect children and other vulnerable populations, and provides sustainable economic opportunity for oil and gas workers.

► ***Tell your state legislators today to pass SB 467 this year by going to:***

<https://cleanwater.salsalabs.org/support-ca-sb467-spring-2020>

BACKGROUND

Well Stimulation Treatment is practiced throughout the state, and some can occur right up against residentially populated areas, posing significant risks to the environment and public health. **Despite this threat, nearly 7.5 million Californians live within one mile of an oil or gas well. The majority of these Californians are low-income, and people of color. Over 350,000 students attend school within a mile of an active well, while over 120,000 students attend school within half a mile of an active well.**

PROBLEM

Human Health: Oil extraction causes extremely harmful health effects or worsens ongoing health complications. The majority of oil and gas operations take place in areas already impacted by poor air quality. By releasing dangerously high levels of fine particulates and toxic substances, oil extraction is linked to cancer, heart disease, endocrine disruption, adverse reproductive outcomes, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and premature death.

Studies in both California and other states show a correlation between the proximity of a community to an oil or gas well and increased rates of birth defects, premature birth, low birth weights, increased asthma rates and hospitalizations for heart failure, fatigue, stress and other serious health complications.



Environmental and Economic: Well Stimulation Treatment can increase earthquakes and seismic activity, air pollution, water contamination, oil or wastewater spillage, and sinkholes. Carbon dioxide releases from burning sand oil, along with leaked and burned off methane (which is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the atmosphere) both compound the growing threats of climate change and global warming. Lastly, these extraction methods utilize an enormous amount of water, reducing supplies, driving up water costs, and pitting farmers against well financed oil companies in competing for water. **In 2014, hydraulic fracturing alone used and permanently contaminated 70 million gallons of California's water. This water was desperately needed during 2015's extreme drought that cost roughly \$2.7 billion and killed 20,000 agriculture-related jobs.**

SOLUTION: SB 467

SB 467 would:

1. Phase out hydraulic fracturing, acid well stimulation treatment, cyclic-steam operations, or steam and water flooding for the extraction or production of oil and gas.
2. Establish a health protection zone of 2,500 feet between extraction sites and residential areas, education facilities, and health and long-term care facilities.
3. Require the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to identify oil and gas workers who have lost their jobs and offer incentives to well remediation contractors to prioritize the hiring of these identified former workers.

For more information and to take action, go to:

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