

California Senate Bill 4 (Pavley): Fact Sheet

REGULATION OF FRACKING AND OTHER OIL RECOVERY PRACTICES

Updated: September 27, 2013

SUMMARY

- SB 4 passed both houses with a two-thirds vote and was signed Sept. 20.
- SB 4 will impose the strongest regulations and disclosure requirements on the oil industry of any state in the nation.
- On January 1, 2014, SB 4 ends unregulated fracking and acidizing and imposes immediate safeguards.
- Oil companies seeking to “stimulate” wells after January 1, 2014 must file satisfactory certifications under penalty of law (violations trigger fines of up to \$25,000 per day) of compliance with key safeguards:
 - Groundwater Testing (before/after).
 - Neighbor Notification (1,500 ft.).
 - Public disclosure of chemicals, well history, locations online.
- Throughout 2014, the public will have numerous opportunities to comment on proposed regulations and comprehensive review and mitigation requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

FAQ #1: *Do late amendments to SB 4 bar DOGGR from requiring additional review and mitigation under CEQA?*

No. Sec. 3160(n) preserves the authority of Governor, agencies, local governments and courts to further restrict or ban fracking under CEQA or any other “laws, regulations and orders.”

FAQ #2: *Will SB 4 tie state regulators’ hands and “greenlight” fracking until 2015?*

No. While regulations and CEQA review are finalized in 2014, Sec. 3161 bars any well stimulation that has not complied with groundwater testing, chemical disclosure and other environmental provisos.

FAQ #3: *Does SB 4 prevent the governor or local governments from imposing a moratorium?*

No. See Sec. 3160(n) in FAQ #1.

Newspaper Endorsements of Senate Bill 4

Pavley's legislation gives the state the toughest laws in the United States, and it paves the way for even stricter laws if scientific reviews indicate they are necessary.

- San Jose Mercury News (September 16, 2013)

Despite those who believe SB 4 should have legislated an outright ban on fracking, The Star believes the bill authored by state Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, which has significant implications for the state's oil industry, provides a comprehensive, balanced approach to this volatile issue.

- Ventura County Star (September 23, 2013)

The result is a reasonable set of controls that will add transparency and oversight to a technology that needs much more of each.

- San Francisco Chronicle (September 12, 2013)

The bill that passed will put fracking under more serious scrutiny in California than occurs in any other state.

- Merced Sun-Star (September 25, 2013)

The bill would bring transparency and accountability to the drilling process, which will keep the safety of California's water supply paramount.

- Los Angeles Daily News (September 9, 2013)

Endorsing Newspapers (Includes links to editorials)

Bakersfield Californian	Sacramento Bee
Contra Costa Times	Sacramento News and Review
Fresno Bee	San Bernardino Sun
Long Beach Press Telegram	San Francisco Chronicle
Los Angeles Daily News	San Jose Mercury News
Merced Sun-Star	Santa Cruz Sentinel
Modesto Bee	Ventura County Star
Orange County Register	