



AB 591: Oil and Gas Production: Hydraulic Fracturing

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

Under existing law, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources in the Department of Conservation regulates the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil and gas wells in the state. The State Oil and Gas Supervisor supervises the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of wells and the operation, maintenance, and removal or abandonment of tanks and facilities related to oil and gas production within an oil and gas field regarding safety and environmental damage. Existing law requires the district deputy to prepare maps regarding oil and gas production in each district and to collect information regarding the presence of oil and gas and the location and extent of strata bearing water or surface water suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes.

This bill would instead require the district deputy to collect information on the presence of oil and gas deposits and the location and extent of strata bearing water or surface water suitable for irrigation, domestic, industrial, or wildlife purposes that might be affected. The bill would also require the maps prepared by the district deputy to be posted, as specified, on the divisions Internet Web site.

Existing law requires the operator of a well, before commencing the work of drilling the well, to file with the supervisor or the district deputy a written notice of intention to commence drilling, and prohibits the commencement of drilling until approval is given by the supervisor or the district deputy. The existing Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) prohibits any person, in the course of doing business, from knowingly and intentionally exposing any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without giving a specified warning, or from discharging or releasing such a chemical into any source of drinking water, except as specified. This bill would revise that procedure to instead require the operator to file an application before commencing drilling and would require additional information to be included in the application, including information regarding the chemicals, if any, to be injected into the well. The bill would require the supervisor to post the information regarding the type of process and list of chemicals on the divisions Internet Web site. The bill would require the operator to notify every property owner and occupant of property within one mile of a well if the application includes a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity pursuant to the list adopted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Watch

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/IMPACT TO COUNTY

Overall consideration to the environment and health and safety; requires an additional process of oversight and documentation of presence of oils and gas deposits and chemicals used if any in extraction operations. Further requires that all maps and information be presented for public information.

POSSIBLE SUPPORTERS: Not stated

POSSIBLE OPPOSITION: Not stated

COUNTY CONTACT: Glenn Russell, Director, Planning & Development, 568.2084