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A L L I A N C E

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Implications of a 3,200' Setback in California

California – CalGEM (California Geologic Energy Management Division), under the state's Department of Conservation, has been working on a rulemaking for protective setbacks for more than two years. FracTracker Alliance has completed a geospatial analysis assessing the projected impact of a 3,200' public health setback from oil and gas extraction operations, as defined by [CalGEM's draft rule](#). FracTracker's full report can be found on the [FracTracker Alliance website](#). The most significant results of this analysis are outlined below. For questions or specific data requests related to this analysis, please contact [FracTracker Alliance's Western Program Coordinator](#).

More than 28,000 operational oil and gas wells are located within 3,200' of a home, hospital, school, or other sensitive receptor. While this accounts for over 27% of the operational wells in the state, these wells account for less than 24% of statewide oil production. In 2021, 22% of new drilling permits were issued within the proposed 3,200' setback, while only 11% of new wells were drilled within the proposed setback.

It is clear that the area within the 3,200' setback is not a strategic zone for oil production. Halting new permitting within the zone and plugging and remediating existing operations would immediately benefit the environmental health of the more than 2.7 million Californians living within 3,200' of an existing operational oil and gas well. This is also an environmental justice issue as a disparate number of those living within 3,200' of an operational well are people of color, and over 21% are under the age of 18.

Well Counts; of the 103,890 wells listed as unplugged/operational (active/idle/new) in the CalGEM "AllWells" dataset, 28,367 (27.3%) wells are located within 3,200 feet of a sensitive receptor. The status of the wells include:

Permit Counts; of the 542 new drilling permits issued by CalGEM in 2021, 120 (22.1%) were located within the 3,200' setback zone.

New Drilling; of the 1,110 new wells drilled (2020-2021), 123 (11.1%) were located within the 3,200' setback zone.

Production; in 2020, 23.86% of the total 141,638,219 bbls was produced from wells in the proposed 3,200' setback zone.

Demographics; of the 2,763,383 Californians living within 3,200' of an operational oil and gas well, 69% are "non-white" (including Hispanic or Latino), 5.9% are children under 5 years of age and 21.4% are children under 18 years of age.

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