

SB 4: REGULATION OF FRACKING

The League of Women Voters of California supports SB 4 (Pavley), which will provide a strong statutory framework for regulation of fracking and well stimulation in California. **We are cosponsors of a [MoveOn.org petition in favor of this bill](#)**. Read the petition and background about the bill and its provisions on the next page. Then please sign it online and share it.

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/protect-california-from.fb29?r_by=7284788

WHY THE LEAGUE SUPPORTS SB 4

- **Strong, inclusive bill that includes independent scientific study.** As shown in the Petition Background, this bill addresses many of the League's concerns about fracking, both in the study it mandates and in the regulations it requires. In addition, it includes acid injection, an alternate form of well stimulation which often uses extremely hazardous chemicals. Air and water pollution and seismic effects are some of the dangers addressed, for both the study and the regulations.
- **Very strong right-to-know provisions.** The League of Women Voters has advocated for “community right to know” for nearly three decades, and did so with this bill. SB 4 will provide such disclosure with few exceptions. Even for trade secrets (which are firmly established in other laws), provisions to reveal the chemicals used in well stimulation to the public, and to reveal their amounts when needed by local agencies, by health professionals to treat patients, and by health researchers, are unusually—perhaps uniquely—strong.
- **Requires agency coordination to ensure accountability and transparency.** Responsibilities of the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and other agencies (such as the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and regional and local agencies) will be delineated clearly through consultation and formal agreements. This is sorely needed.
- **Covers costs.** Costs will be recovered through fees paid by well owners (a concept sometimes stated as “the polluter pays”).
- **Without SB 4, regulation of fracking is uncertain and likely to be weak.** The LWVC has been participating in the DOGGR regulatory process and in an informational legislative hearing, and has commented on all of these as items that regulations need to address. Our letters of support for the bill have also emphasized the need for strong disclosure provisions and community right to know, and these provisions have been significantly improved by amendments. SB 4 will require the regulations to include them, and to be far stronger than the agency is likely to adopt without this bill.
- **Moratorium bills.** The LWVC has remained neutral on moratorium bills, all of which have been killed in the legislature. Some of the organizations that support a moratorium are now supporting SB 4 also, to make regulations as strong as possible, even while they seek a future moratorium.

August 29, 2013



Help Protect Californians from Fracking

To be delivered to: The California State House and The California State Senate

Petition Statement

We, the undersigned individuals, urge you to vote YES on SB 4 (Pavley). This bill will bring much needed transparency and accountability to the oil and gas industry in California, requiring disclosure of fracking and other well stimulation operations to state regulators and the public. We have a right to know when and where fracking is occurring, what chemicals and how much water is being used, and the impacts on our water. Fracking has been happening unregulated in California for decades, despite evidence of harm from around the country. This bill is an important first step in protecting our environment, health and climate from the dangers of fracking.

Petition Background

Help pass SB 4 (Pavley) through the California legislature. This bill will require oil companies to tell the public about fracking and other risky oil and gas drilling operations. Fracking and fracking related activities, have been linked to ground and surface water pollution, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, earthquakes, and property damage around the country, yet in California the practice is largely unregulated. There are no requirements for obtaining a permit, disclosing chemical or water use, or monitoring for groundwater pollution. This bill will promote the public's right to know and give us the information we need to keep fracking out of our communities. Transparency and information is an important first step in protecting our state, and our communities from the dangers of fracking.

Key provisions of SB 4.

This bill would require:

- A comprehensive framework for fracking and well stimulation regulations.
- A permit before well stimulation can occur.
- Disclosure of identities and volumes of chemicals injected as part of any well stimulation.
- Disclosure of the quantity and source of water used in well stimulation.
- Advance notice to neighbors of proposed well stimulation projects.
- Monitoring of groundwater quality, before and after well stimulation.
- A state conducted scientific study on the risks of fracking, acid injection and other well stimulation processes.
- Formal agreements between the Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), the Air Resources Board, State Water Board, and other agencies to ensure accountability, transparency and regulatory cooperation.

Petition sponsors: Clean Water Action, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Center, California League of Conservation Voters, Earthworks, California Coastkeeper Alliance, Environmental Working Group, League of Women Voters of California