



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

6230 Claremont Avenue Oakland, CA 94618 - Tel (510) 654-5383 - Fax (510) 654-8959 - www.accma.org

June 8, 2020

Uduak-Joe Ntuk,
Supervisor, California Geologic Energy Management Division
Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 24-02
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Public Health Concerns re: Oil and Gas Extraction in California

Dear Supervisor Ntuk:

I am writing on behalf of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association (ACCMA), representing 5,000 East Bay physicians, to express concern about the potential negative health and safety impacts of oil and gas extraction. Permitting oil and gas extraction could adversely affect the health of the community by emitting pollutants and driving climate change. We want to ensure CalGEM is mindful of this preventable, public health crisis confronting our state, and urge you to be cautious about permitting: oil and gas operations near homes, schools, daycare centers, health facilities and other sensitive land uses that could compromise the public health.

Oil and gas extraction could have multiple adverse effects on the public's health. Extraction processes can produce emissions of multiple health-hazardous air pollutants. Many of these pollutants are known to be toxic to human health and are classified as carcinogens, causing respiratory harm, reproductive harm, long-term developmental harm, and endocrine disruptions. Oil and gas extraction are also driving forces of climate change. Warming temperatures and increasing extreme weather threaten our health, air, water, food, shelter, and economic security. The health impacts resulting from climate change are – and will continue to be – felt first and worst by disenfranchised communities, exacerbating existing health, social, and economic injustice. Black, Latino and other marginalized and low-income communities living fence-line to oil operations in California already bear the burden of health impacts associated with fossil fuel production. Indigenous communities on whose ancestral lands the oil is extracted bear the generational impacts.

In light of these concerns, the ACCMA asks CalGEM to safeguard the public's health given the substantial and growing body of evidence about the negative health effects of oil and gas drilling. If you have any questions or wish to discuss these concerns, please contact Joseph Greaves, ACCMA Executive Director, at 510-654-5383 or jgreaves@accma.org.

Sincerely,

Katrina Peters, MD
President