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## **Sierra Club California Assesses Draft Fracking Regulations: Mixed Bag that Won't Protect Public Health and the Environment**

SACRAMENTO—The California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), the agency responsible for permitting the oil industry, today released draft regulations for fracking and well stimulation. The regulations were required by Senate Bill 4 (Pavley), signed into law in September.

### **Statement from Kathryn Phillips, director, Sierra Club California:**

“At best, these regulations can be described as a mixed bag. At worst, they provide another example of an agency’s continued deference to a regulated entity, even at the expense of public health and the environment.

“For example, in defining well stimulation, one of the areas in which SB 4 was breaking new ground, the draft regulations have managed to craft the definition in a way that removes what commonsense would suggest should be considered well stimulation. As it is now, the definition looks like it was written by oil industry lobbyists.

“We’ll continue participating in the regulatory process, but only because we fear that without active environmental group participation, the oil industry will dictate the terms of the regulations. But it’s clear that the regulations won’t deliver what California truly needs.

“To effectively protect public health and the environment, the state needs a moratorium. We need to make sure we aren’t extracting more carbon and creating new pollution only to ensure worse climate change impacts. California needs a moratorium, a time out, on fracking and well stimulations that will unnecessarily lead to more pollution, drain our water supplied, and create even greater dependence on dirty fuels.”

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*Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 380,000 members and supporters statewide.*

