

Environment & Energy

# California Agency Rule Aims to Implement Oil Setback Distances

By Zach Bright

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California's top oil and gas regulator announced Monday it proposed emergency regulations to ensure a law takes effect to end drilling within 3200 feet of schools, businesses, and residences.

The regulations aim to carry out the law, S.B. 1137, and are set to take effect the first day of next year, despite an effort from oil and gas companies to delay its enforcement by bringing the issue to a state referendum on the 2024 election ballot.

1. S.B. 1137 was a top environmental priority that Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) shepherded to passage toward the end of the state's legislative session this year.
2. The California Geologic Energy Management Division said it's seeking to submit the regulations to the state Office of Administrative Law Dec. 28, with an effective date no later than Jan. 7.
3. The division is now accepting public comment on the proposed emergency regulations.
4. The signature-gathering effort to overturn oil setback requirements has garnered more than 978,000 signatures, the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA) said. It needs just under 625,000 successfully verified signatures to qualify.

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