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SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO HOST FRACKING SYMPOSIUM

K. ERIC ADAIR

On Tuesday, September 18, 2012, California's South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) will host a symposium on hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." According to the symposium's synopsis, the symposium will address environmental concerns raised with the use of fracking in California, focusing on its impact in the South Coast Air Basin. Speakers will discuss how fracking is used and its potential environmental impacts, including air, water, and ground impacts.

The symposium will be conducted in two parts. The morning sessions will provide an overview of the process, existing regulations, and stakeholder perspectives on potential environmental impacts. Topics covered will include air quality impacts, greenhouse gas impacts, fugitive emissions, chemicals used and potential toxicity, water impacts, and seismic risk. The afternoon session will be a policy-level discussion with representatives from federal, state, and local governments, along with industry stakeholders and environmental representatives. They will consider current concerns and future actions to reduce environmental impacts, and will provide recommendations for possible future actions that the SCAQMD may take to further reduce air quality impacts.

The meeting agenda lists several noteworthy speakers from government, industry, academia, and advocacy groups, including the following:

- Dr. William Burke, Chairman, SCAQMD Governing Board
- Dr. Iraj Ershaghi, Director, Petroleum Engineering Program, University of Southern California
- Rock Zierman, Chief Executive Officer, California Independent Petroleum Association
- John Kemmerer, Associate Water Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
- Henry Hogo, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Mobile Source, Science & Technology Advancement, SCAQMD

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- Dr. Fred Aminzadeh, Department of Geology, University of Southern California
- Tim Kustic, State Oil and Gas Supervisor, Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources
- Dr. Elaine Chang, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources SCAQMD
- Tupper Hull, Vice President of Strategic Communications, Western States Petroleum Association
- Dr. Katharine Moore, Consultant, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
- Dr. Joseph K. Lyou, SCAQMD Governing Board
- Assemblymember Betsy Butler (invited), 53rd Assembly District
- Dr. Mark Nechodom, Director, California Department of Conservation
- Damon Nagami, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Dr. Tom Williams, Cal-Fracking Group Coordinator, Sierra Club
- Hector Madariaga, Director of Environmental Affairs, Southern California Gas Company
- Barry R. Wallerstein, Executive Officer, SCAQMD

The symposium will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the SCAQMD offices located at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California 91765. To register for this free symposium, email lmoore [at] aqmd.gov or call Ana Ponce at (909) 396-3008.

HGA attorney Eric Adair will attend the symposium and provide a summary on the firm blog.

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For more information regarding California fracking issues, please contact:

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