

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE MEMORIAL 8

In 2021, a scientific advisory panel advised the state conservation department in California on the science underlying the risks to public health of air emissions from oil and gas operations, and. The panel was composed of respected scientists and academics who based their analysis on peer reviewed literature. Below are a number of major findings from the report¹ relevant to Senate Memorial 8.

- The panel concluded “with a high level of certainty that the epidemiologic evidence indicates that close residential proximity to OGD [oil and gas development] is associated with adverse perinatal and respiratory outcomes” Report, p. 1.
- The panel had “a high level of certainty in the findings in the body of epidemiological studies for perinatal health outcomes because of the consistency of results across multiple studies that were conducted using different methodologies, in different locations, with diverse populations, and during different time periods” Report, p. 2.
- The panel concluded that “the totality of the epidemiological evidence provides a high level of certainty that exposure to OGD (and associated exposures) cause a significant increased risk of poor birth outcomes.” Report, p. 3.
- The panel found that the “wells, valves, tanks and other equipment used to produce, store, process and transport petroleum products at both unconventional and conventional OGD sites are associated with emissions of toxic air contaminants, hazardous air pollutants and other health-damaging non-methane VOCs [volatile organic compounds]. Diesel engines used to power on-site equipment and trucks at unconventional and conventional OGD sites directly emit health-damaging hazardous air pollutants, fine particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds” Report, p. 10 (citations omitted).
- The panel concluded “with a high level of certainty that concentrations of health-damaging air pollutants, including criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, are more concentrated near OGD activities compared to further away.” Report, p. 11.
- The panel found that “neither setbacks or engineering controls alone are sufficient to reduce the health hazards and risks from OGD activities -- both approaches are needed in tandem.” Report, p. 13.

¹ Found at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Public-Health-Panel-Memo.pdf>.