December 17, Joint Holiday Meeting with AEG and GRA

Speaker: Michael Mills, Stoel Rives, LLP

Title: Here Today and Fracked Tomorrow: A Rollercoaster Year for SB 4 Implementation

Location: Aviator’s Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento, Link to map

Please bring an item (beer, wine, books, rocks, etc) to raffle off for the scholarship fund

$30 for members, $35 for non members, $5 for students
Social hour at 5:30pm, introductions and dinner at 6:30pm, presentation at 7:30pm, Raffle at 8:30

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or by sending an email to: Tim.McCrink@conservation.ca.gov
Abstract

Here Today and Fracked Tomorrow: A Rollercoaster Year for SB 4 Implementation

2014 was a thrill ride for both industry and regulators under SB 4 with many operators left scratching their heads in their initial attempts to figure out the requirements imposed on them at the end of 2013. The Department of Conservation urged operators to hasten their actions, prepare well stimulation treatment notices early, and focused a lot of outreach efforts on landowner notification requirements. The Governor even quickly appointed a new Supervisor of the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources to help lead the implementation efforts for the Department. But as soon as January 2014, the reality of SB 4 implementation became evident: the SWCRB’s take-it-slow approach, and the law’s requirement for approved groundwater monitoring plans as a precondition to an authorization to conduct operations, put the brakes on well stimulation treatments in the first half of the year. SB 4 threw the oil and gas industry into the frontlines of groundwater quality issues and shifted an incredible amount of regulatory authority from the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources to the SWRCB. This presentation will review the highs and lows, as well as the thrills and chills, of a very unpredictable past year.

Michael N. Mills Bio

Michael N. Mills is a Partner in the Sacramento office of Stoel Rives LLP and serves as Chair of the firm’s Oil, Gas, Mining, and Pipelines Industries Team. His practice is focused on oil and gas, environmental, land use, property tax, and litigation matters. Mike has more than seventeen years of experience with federal and state environmental laws and regulations, as well as permitting and title issues associated with oil and gas development. He is a past President of both the Sacramento County Bar Association and the Sacramento Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Mike graduated from the University of California, Davis, School of Law in 1997, Order of the Coif, and received his Bachelor of Science from U.C. Davis in Environmental Toxicology in 1994, summa cum laude.