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California is being taken to court over its permitting process for oil and gas extraction. The Center for Biological Diversity, filed a lawsuit yesterday to try to force the state to fall the rules laid out in the California environmental quality act, also known as CEQA.

KCRW's Matt Gillum reports. The lawsuit claims the regulatory agency tasked with overseeing fossil fuel extraction is coming up short. The lawsuit alleges the California geologic energy management division known as calGEM is either conducting subpar environmental reviews before approving oil and gas drilling permits or not doing them at all.

California remains one of the top oil producing States with about 3 quarters of all about black gold coming from nearby Kern County. While much of the state's fossil fuel sector is in southern California, the lawsuit was filed in the Bay area.

The executive director of the California environmental Justice alliance Gladys Limon tells the desert sun newspaper, the lack of oversight is troubling. She says communities on the front lines of oil and gas production are being disregarded and that it's the government's duty to identify and prevent short and long-term health impacts.

The lawsuit from the Center for Biological Diversity comes as California's oil and gas industries also being targeted by state lawmakers. Last week, Senator Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Monique Limon of Santa Barbara, introduced a bill that would ban fracking in the Golden state by 2027 and require a Twenty-five hundred foot buffer zone between extraction efforts and most dwellings for KCRW I'm Matt Gillum.