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A national environmental group is suing the Newsom administration over what it says is the illegal approval of thousands of oil and gas drilling permits. KQED's Ted Goldberg reports.

The Center for Biological Diversity is filing a lawsuit against California Geological energy management division. The suit filed today in Alameda County Superior court says CalGEM has consistently approved drilling permits without enough environmental review. The group notes that drilling can harm public health in nearby communities pollute the environment and lead to serious oil spills. The Center wants a judge to stop the agency from issuing such permits unless it studies them more. The Center's lawsuit comes a week after two state lawmakers proposed banning several drilling techniques in the coming years. I'm Ted Goldberg KQED news.

State regulators declined to comment on the lawsuit but said in a statement that California oil and gas standards exceed those of any other state in the country and CalGEM follows the standards to the letter.