

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/golden-state-sued-over-oil-and-gas-permit-issues/ar-BB1dZCCL>

# Golden State sued over oil and gas permit issues

Winston Gieseke

USA TODAY

**The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit Wednesday** against California [challenging the state's approval of thousands of permits to drill for oil and gas](#). The environmental advocacy organization has asked the court to issue an injunction compelling the state to follow the California Environmental Quality Act when permitting of oil and gas wells.

The group says the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), which regulates the state's oil and gas industry, issues drilling approvals with no or incomplete environmental reviews and leans on inappropriate exemptions under the state's central environmental law.

"It is completely unacceptable for Gov. (Gavin) Newsom to continue to ignore our flagship environmental law that's meant to protect people from oil industry pollution," said Hollin Kretzmann, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity's Climate Law Institute, via statement. "Newsom can't protect our health and climate while giving thousands of illegal permits each year to this dirty and dangerous industry."

In response, Jacob Roper, spokesperson for the Department of Conservation, of which CalGEM is a sub-agency, issued a statement, saying: "CalGEM follows all state laws and regulations in approving permits. This administration has strengthened oversight, imposed

more rigorous standards for permit review and institutionalized independent scientific and technical review of its processes."