

July 24, 2014

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA

Dear Governor Brown:

Every day climate change harms California's health, environment, economy, and standard of living, as you have rightly noted -- and continuing our dependence on petroleum will make these impacts worse. On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing more than 1 million Californians, we urge you to use your executive authority to place an immediate moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and other risky extraction techniques. Consistent with your commitment that any decisions about fracking will be, "based on science, based on common sense, and based on a deliberative process that listens to people," then you must place a moratorium on fracking now. The state is currently studying the public health, economic and environmental impacts.

Californians want a moratorium on fracking now. Over the past year polls have shown a majority of Californians oppose fracking outright, and the most recent poll showed that almost 70 percent support a moratorium on fracking and acidizing now. In addition, several communities have begun efforts to prohibit fracking locally. While these efforts are significant, they are not a substitute for comprehensive statewide action to protect all Californians and our essential resources.

The oil and gas industry continues to thwart the will of the people by spending millions to buy influence in Sacramento. The industry has already spent \$15 million on the 2014 legislative session, on pace to break its previous record of spending \$25 million in 2012. Please listen to the people over industry and protect the public and California's communities threatened by fracking pollution.

It's all the more reasonable to put a moratorium in place in light of recent reports that Energy Information Administration has reduced its estimate of recoverable oil in the Monterey shale from 13.7 billion barrels to 600 million barrels. California is poised to greatly reduce its consumption of oil and replace this dirty fuel with renewable energy. We should not invest in dirty, dangerous and unproven technologies for extracting oil from the Monterey Shale when science tells us that we must rapidly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and at a time when California's renewable energy sector is booming.

Today oil companies are fracking and acidizing wells near people's homes in many communities. Fracking and other extreme oil-production methods in Los Angeles and Orange County have employed formaldehyde and other dangerous "air toxic" chemicals more than 5,000 times over the past year, according to South Coast Air Quality Management District data. Communities urgently need protection from fracking and drilling, and we are looking to you to provide leadership and relief to these communities.

People in Shafter and other Central Valley towns know the risks of extreme oil production all too well. Kern County has the largest number of wells in the state and the worst air pollution in the country. Community members have voiced grave concerns about the oil wells they see near elementary schools, churches, farms and homes. They're disturbed to see friends and family members suffering from headaches, nosebleeds, and respiratory diseases associated with oil drilling and extraction.

Across the state, farmers, families and businesses are being asked to limit their water use as we deal with the worst drought in generations. Expanding unconventional oil and gas production using fracking and similar techniques – which require large volumes of fresh water – would put another demand on California's already strained fresh water resources.

It's time for California to catch up with the other states that have acted to protect public health and the environment on this critical issue. New York's Governor issued an executive order halting fracking to give state regulators time to fully evaluate the risks to public health and the environment, in order to determine how to protect against them. The states of Vermont and Maryland, and hundreds of local governments in several states, have imposed moratoria or banned fracking entirely.

Ramping up dirty oil production through fracking and other risky extraction techniques is at odds with California's clean energy, climate, water and air quality goals. It's time for you to do what is right for California and impose a moratorium now.

Sincerely,

350.org

Americans Against Fracking

Breast Cancer Action

Californians Against Fracking

California League of Conservation Voters

California Nurses Association

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Health

Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment

Clean Water Action

Courage Campaign

CREDO

Democracy for America

Earthworks

Energy Action Coalition

Environmental Action

Environment California

Environmental Working Group

Friends of the Earth

Food & Water Watch

Natural Resources Defense Council

Oil Change International
Other 98%
Progressive Democrats of America
Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club

350 Bay Area
350 Marin
350 San Luis Obispo
350 Santa Barbara
Alliance for Democracy
Butte Environmental Council
Californians for Western Wilderness
Central California Environmental Justice Network
California Environmental Justice Alliance
Citizens for Sustainable Marina
Clark Strategic Partners
Communities for Sustainable Monterey County
Community Rights Network of Mendocino County
Community Rights Organization of Willits
Courage Campaign
C-WIN
Elder Creek Center For The Land
Environment and Human Rights Advisory
Environmental Protection Information Center
Family Farm Defenders
Food Empowerment Project
Fossil Free UCLA
Friends of the Pogonip
Grassroots Coalition
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Green Party of Monterey County
Humanist Assn of Monterey Bay Area
League of United Latin American Citizens – California Chapter
Los Padres ForestWatch
Mainstreet Moms
Marin Water Coalition
Mercedians Against Fracking
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
MoveOn Los Angeles
Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice
Northcoast Environmental Center
OCICE
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco-Bay Area Chapter
Preserve Wild Santee
Protect Mustangs

Radical Art For These Times (RAFTT)
Residents Organized for a Safe Environment (ROSE)
San Diego County Green Party
SaveWithSunlight
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
SLO CLEAN WATER ACTION
Stewards of the Earth
Students Against Fracking
Tar Sands Action SoCal
Teens Turning Green
The River Project
Topanga Peace Alliance and MLK Coalition for Jobs, Justice and Peace
Wholly H2O
Wild Heritage Planners
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section