

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF _____ TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE IN SUPPORT OF BANNING FRACKING IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a method of oil and gas production that involves blasting millions of gallons of water, mixed with toxic chemicals, under high pressure into the earth, breaking up rock formations to allow oil and gas extraction;

WHEREAS, fracking has been documented in ten California counties — Colusa, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Monterey, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Sutter and Ventura — as well as in state and federal waters off California and may be taking place elsewhere in California¹;

WHEREAS, fracking requires large amounts of water, with average water use per well in other shale plays of up to 5.6 million gallons per well² and the amount of water used in California is unknown;

WHEREAS, fracking routinely employs numerous toxic chemicals, including methanol, benzene, naphthalene and trimethylbenzene, and can also expose people to harm from lead, arsenic and radioactive materials brought back to the surface with fracking flowback fluid³;

WHEREAS, about 25 percent of fracking chemicals can cause cancer and many others cause numerous other health problems⁴;

WHEREAS, evidence is mounting throughout the country that these chemicals are making their way into aquifers and drinking water⁵;

WHEREAS, water quality can be threatened by methane contamination tied to drilling and the fracturing of rock formations as demonstrated by recent studies⁶ and highlighted by footage of people in fracked areas setting fire to methane-laced water from kitchen faucets;

WHEREAS, fracking and drilling can release dangerous amounts of air pollution, including benzene, toluene, xylene, and precursors to ground-level ozone, which increase risk of respiratory illness for people living near drilling sites⁷;

¹ Fracfocus website, available at <http://www.fracfocus.org>.

² U.S. Government Accountability Office, Information on Shale Resources, Development, and Environmental and Public Health Risk (Sept. 2012) at 37, available at www.gao.gov/assets/650/647791.pdf.

³ Colborn, Theo, Natural Gas Operations from a Public Health Perspective, Human and Ecological Risk Assessment (2011); New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Revised Draft SGEIS on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (2011), at 5-100 to 103, 5-117 to 118, available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.htm>.

⁴ Colborn, Theo, Natural Gas Operations from a Public Health Perspective, 17 Human and Ecological Risk Assessment at 1039 (2011), available at <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/home.php>.

⁵ See, e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Draft Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming (2011); Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Consent Order and Agreement in the matter of Cabot Oil and Gas Corp et al. re Clean Streams Law, the Oil and Gas Act, and the Solid Waste Management Act (Nov. 4, 2009).

⁶ Banerjee, Neela, *Fracking can increase methane in drinking water, study finds*, Los Angeles Times (June 24, 2013), <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-fracking-methane-drinking-water-study-20130624,0,4122885.story>.

⁷ Kelly, David, *Study shows air emissions near fracking sites may pose health risk*, University of Colorado Communications, <http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/health-impacts-of-fracking-emissions.aspx>; United States Environmental Protection Agency, Ground-Level Ozone Health Effects, available at <http://www.epa.gov/glo/health.html>.

WHEREAS, fracking and drilling often release large amounts of methane⁸, a highly potent greenhouse gas, with the leakage rate in the Los Angeles basin estimated at 17% of gas produced in the region⁹;

WHEREAS, fracking would likely lead to the consumption of huge fossil fuel deposits, such as the Monterey Shale, a geological formation under the San Joaquin and the Los Angeles basins that holds an estimated 15 billion barrels of recoverable shale oil¹⁰, adding large amounts of carbon pollution to the atmosphere;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Energy Agency have concluded that we must keep roughly 2/3rds of proven reserves of fossil fuels in the ground if we are to have a decent chance of avoiding climate catastrophe.¹¹

WHEREAS, fracking fluid disposal into waste injection wells has caused earthquakes, and fracking itself has been found to have caused earthquakes in Canada and the United Kingdom¹²;

WHEREAS, the expansion of fracking and related industrial development threatens to harm or kill endangered species like the California condor, San Joaquin kit fox, and blunt-nosed leopard lizard that live nearby¹³;

WHEREAS, New York, New Jersey and Vermont have enacted bans or moratoriums on fracking;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the _____ City Council, on behalf of the residents of _____, do hereby urge the Governor of the State of California and our state legislature to ban fracking in California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution To the Governor of California and City's representatives in the State Senate and Assembly.

⁸ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: 2011 Data Publication (2013) (petroleum and natural gas systems accounted for 83 million metric tons of CO₂e).

⁹ Peischl, J. et. al., Quantifying sources of methane using light alkanes in the Los Angeles basin, California, 118 Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 1-17 (2013).

¹⁰ United States Energy Information Administration, Review of Emerging Resources: U.S. Shale Gas and Shale Oil Plays (Jul. 2011) at 75-77.

¹¹ <http://priceofoil.org/2013/09/27/ipcc-says-must-stop-digging/> citing http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGIAR5-SPM_Approved27Sep2013.pdf and <https://www.iea.org/newsroomandevents/pressreleases/2012/november/name,33015,en.html>

¹² Ellsworth, W.L. et al., Abstract: Are seismicity rate changes in the midcontinent natural or manmade? (2012), available at <http://www2.seismosoc.org/FMPro?>; BC Oil and Gas Commission, Investigation of Observed Seismicity in the Horn River Basin (Aug. 2012); BBC News, *Fracking tests near Blackpool 'likely cause' of tremors* (Nov. 2, 2011), <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-15550458>.

¹³ Center for Biological Diversity, Fracking Threatens California's Wildlife, http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/california_fracking/wildlife.html.