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Submitted via U.S. mail and email to pocswellstim@anl.gov

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Re: Protect the California Coast by Halting Offshore Fracking

On behalf of 128 environmental, social justice, indigenous and health organizations that collectively represent millions of members and supporters, we write to urge you to ban fracking off the California coast. We are disappointed that the federal government has proposed to end the current moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and acidization in federal waters off California. Fracking is a dangerous and dirty practice that pollutes our water and air and increases the threat of oil spills and earthquakes. It does not belong in our ocean.

Offshore fracking causes much environmental harm. First, oil companies dump their wastewater mixed with fracking chemicals into the ocean. Many of these chemicals are toxic to people and animals and pose a threat to California's marine life. Second, offshore fracking brings the same risks as onshore fracking — which has a bad track record of spills, accidents and earthquakes — with the added risks of the ocean environment. Third, fracking off the California coast will intensify offshore oil and gas development. Increased offshore drilling deepens our climate crisis and impedes our nation's ability to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

The Bureaus' flawed draft assessment acknowledges the risks of offshore fracking, but then largely ignores them. In so doing, the Bureaus failed to fully disclose the environmental impacts of their plan to allow oil companies to resume offshore fracking and other controversial drilling techniques. Moreover, the draft assessment concedes that there are unknown impacts, undisclosed chemicals, and data gaps; but illogically concludes that offshore fracking has no significant environmental impacts.

Given the known environmental and health hazards of fracking, as well as the information gaps of offshore fracking, we ask you to prohibit oil companies from fracking and acidizing wells off the California coast. At minimum, the Bureaus must continue the moratorium on fracking permits until the agencies prepare a full environmental impact statement that includes a comprehensive analysis of the environmental effects of offshore fracking. We believe that the public has a right to full disclosure of fracking's harmful impacts and that once aired there will be no choice but to halt fracking.

Please protect the California coast from dangerous drilling and fracking.

Sincerely,

Sierra Club
Greenpeace USA
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
League of United Latin American Citizens
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Associations (PCFFA)
Surfrider Foundation
Center for Biological Diversity
350.org
Grace Community Church
Public Citizen
Mission Blue
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Food and Water Watch
CREDO
WildEarth Guardians
Center for Environmental Health
Defenders of Wildlife
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Global Exchange
Rainforest Action Network
Friends of the Earth
Environment America
Center for Food Safety
The Story of Stuff Project
United Native Americans
Breast Cancer Action
Earth Island Institute
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
Environment California
Citizens' Climate Lobby, North Orange
County
Environmental Working Group
Ocean River Institute
Solar Wind Works
Protect Monterey County
350 Bay Area
EPIC-Environmental Protection Information
Center
People Demanding Action
Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Fresnans Against Fracking
Eyak Preservation Council
Ventura Coastkeeper
Food Empowerment Project
Greenaction for Health and Environmental
Justice
Stop Fracking Long Beach
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
350 Marin
Sonoma County Conservation Manager
Spottswoode Winery
Farmworker Association of Florida
Californians for Western Wilderness
SignOn.org
Turtle Island Restoration Network
The Shame Free Zone
Progressive Democrats of America
Alameda Creek Alliance
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
The Wildlands Conservancy
Justice Action Mobilization Network (JAMN)
Mainstreet Moms
Blue Frontier
SLO350
Community Science Institute - CSI for Health
& Justice
Kern Environmental Enforcement Network
Environmental Protection Information Center
(EPIC)
Save Our Shores
KyotoUSA
Time Laboratory
Movement Generation Justice & Ecology
Project
California Coastal Protection Network
John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
San Francisco Baykeeper
SLO Clean Water.org
Transition Sebastopol Energy Group
Citizens for Responsible Oil & Gas (CFROG)
Long Beach 350
Our Health, Our Future, Our Longmont

Tar Sands Action Southern California
Berks Gas Truth
Earthworks
Pelican Media
350 Santa Barbara
WILDCOAST
Trash the TPP
Endangered Habitats League
Temple of the United Holy Heart
Save the Sespe
International Center for Technology
Assessment
350 Sacramento
350 Silicon Valley
Santa Barbara Frack Back to Save the Central
Coast
Hands Across the Sand
Flycasters, Inc. of San Jose, CA
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
SoCal 350 Climate Action
International Marine Mammal Project of
Earth Island Institute
350 Sonoma County
Central California Environmental Justice
Network
Ballona Creek Renaissance
Idle No More SF Bay
Sunflower Alliance
The Little Farm
YumTum Yoga and Ayurveda
Chatham Research Group
Friends of the Pogonip
South Bay Los Angeles 350 Climate Action
Group
Movement Rights
Equinox Design
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San
Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Ventura County Climate Hub
Courage Campaign

Clean Water Action
Common Sense Design
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
SaveWithSunlight
Ventura Sierra Club
Frack Free LA County
Ocean Conservation Research
Elders Climate Action
California Young Democrats Environmental
Caucus
Endangered Species Coalition
Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, Inc.
Environmental Voices
Rootskeeper
Surfrider Foundation West LA / Malibu
Chapter
350 Santa Cruz
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
Environmental Caucus, California
Democratic Party