



**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Martin Epstein**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920  
F: (310) 295-9906  
E: info@soronc.org

[soronc.org](http://soronc.org)

# Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 7:00pm

*Meetings end at 8:30pm unless the committee votes to end earlier or extend the time*

**ROOM CHANGE:** Hamilton Senior High School, Room 607, Second Floor, LAB BUILDING, there is an elevator for public use on ground floor of lab building

Hamilton Senior High School  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

---

## I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. Members Present: Paula Waxman, Larry Hess, Charmaine Colina, Barry Levine, Eric Morales, Karen Laramie, Anne Geffner, Saran Kirschbaum, Anne Sutton.
- b. Community Members Present: Alex Nagy, Olivia Cruz, Elizabeth Cruz.

## II. General Public Comment

- a. Bay Delta Water Tunnel public comment by Alex Nagy from Food and Water Watch.
  - i. Focused on stopping a massive tunnel to take water from northern California to Southern California and under the deltas.
  - ii. Opposed by fishing industry.
  - iii. Food and Water Watch released an independent analysis about the tunnel. Alex will provide us with a copy.
  - iv. Paula mentioned that she heard there is a practical reason to bypass the Delta and create the tunnel... In the event of sea water contamination to the Delta. Paula asked Food and Water Watch to submit letter with documentation for study by the Green Committee

## III. Old Business

- a. Rewrite Fracking Motion
  - i. Paula explained that the Fracking Motion as submitted by the Green Team to the July Board meeting was going to be heavily amended by Food and Water Watch. She wanted the committee to consider these amendments before the Board voted on the motion.
  - ii. Discussion on arguments for and against supporting the Koretz/Wesson Resolution calling for a Moratorium of Hydraulic Fracturing until Regulations made it safe for public and environment vs the Butler Bill which simply called for a moratorium until regulated.
  - iii. Motion passed 8 for and 1 abstain due to late arrival.
  - iv. Motion passed to send the letter to Gov. Jerry Brown. 8 for and 1 abstain.
  - v. Discussion to have the Green Team recommend that the SORONC Board sign on to support the letter to Gov. Brown prepared by Food and Water Watch.
    - Green Team voted unanimously to support the Food and Water Watch letter with footnote revisions to be made.
- b. GMO Labeling Conference will be on September 6<sup>th</sup> at Hamilton High School. We may change September GT meeting to coincide with this event.
- c. Assembly Bill 298 State Ban on Plastic Bags/ Senate Bill 568 Styrofoam Ban and the Fracking Ban.
  - i. Paula will send out a website which will help those interested to find out who are State Senators are so we can call to voice our feelings about these motions.

## IV. New Business

- a. 6 New Robertson Trees-Larry Hess



- i. There are actually 8 new trees to be planted. 4 in empty wells and 4 in wells with dead tree stumps.
  - Larry to summarize costs.
- ii. Discussion about native vs non-native. Larry will follow up with community member interested in planting the Pico trees.
- b. Co-ordinate a City-Wide 350 Event
  - i. 350.org
  - ii. Date set for November 10<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles.
- c. Hamilton Environmental Club students or their S.A.F.E. Club would like to co-sponsor 4 environment activities with the SoRo Green Team. Examples of past coordinated activities: Fruit Pick, E-Waste Drive. Bring ideas.
  - eWaste Drive
  - Tree planting
  - 350 event on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Climate Change organization
  - Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Fruit Pick, Harvest from Oct. to May
  - Earth Hour, Sat. March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 8:30 to 9:30
  - Drain Cleaning, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> ?
  - Campus Cleaning (September 8<sup>th</sup>)
- d. Shenandoah garden improvements-Anne Sutton
  - i. Anne is looking for help to replant the front of Shenandoah and beautify the school. Costs could be covered by a Neighborhood Purposes Grant.
  - ii. Larry to coordinate with Anne.

**V. Adjournment**

**VI. Next meeting: September 6<sup>th</sup> or September 12<sup>th</sup>? To be determined.**

---

*Special thanks to our official posting locations:*

Demers & Associates, The Robertson Blvd Library, The Robertson Recreation Center, The Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz, Malcolm Brown Insurance Co., Hamilton High School, and the SORO NC and DONE websites.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website (soronc.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us via phone at (310) 295-9920 or via email at info@soronc.org.

Translators, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing and/or other auxiliary aids/services are available upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least three (3) working days before the scheduled date. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call (213) 485-1360.

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 dias de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (213) 485-1360.



# Motion to Support the Koretz/Wesson Resolution calling for a Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing

**Agenda Item:** To Be Filled in by Exec Committee

**Date:** August 16, 2012

**Proposed By:** The Green Team Committee

---

## Full Proposal

Hydraulic fracturing is the process in which a high volume of water, sand and chemicals is forced into the earth under enormous pressure causing shale to "fracture," releasing oil and gas and creating large volumes of contaminated wastewater. Our primary concerns are:

1. The safe disposal of thousands of gallons of toxic wastewater, which can also result in the contamination of underground aquifers. Fracking contaminants such as benzene, diesel fuel, high levels of fluoride, surfactant 2-BE and other chemicals have been found in aquifers in over 1000 documented cases. (*ProPublica*, "Buried Secrets: Is Natural Gas Drilling Endangering U.S. Water Supplies?" Nov. 13, 2008.) According to an EPA report dated Dec. 2011, fracking resulted in groundwater contamination in Pavilion, Wyoming (*Los Angeles Times*, "Culver City Councils Calls on State to Ban Fracking Temporarily," July 3, 2012). Furthermore, it is unclear what government agencies are responsible for the monitoring and the processing of fracking wastewater.
2. The large amount of water required in the process of hydraulic fracturing when California water is a scarce resource. Fracking in the Inglewood Oil Field, located partially in Culver City, produced 126 million barrels of toxic wastewater in 2011 (Mar Vista Resolution). Furthermore, according to the EIR, 100 new wells are planned for the Culver City section of the Inglewood Oil Field over the next 20 years.
3. Earth instability, including earthquakes, can result from injection wells according to a U.S. Geological Survey conducted in March, 2012. In addition, there is concern about the rupture of wells resulting from regularly occurring earthquakes in California and whether or not these ruptures can be quickly detected if they happen. The Inglewood Oil Field lies above the Newport-Inglewood Fault line. (*Los Angeles Times*, "Culver City Council Calls on State to Ban Fracking Temporarily," July 3, 2012) It is also true that a large insurer, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., will no longer pay for "damage related to ...gas drilling". (*Associated Press*, *U.S. Insurer Won't Cover Gas Drill Fracking Exposure*, Albany, N.Y. July 12, 2012)
4. Air pollution, which has been measured at five times above federal hazard standards near fracking sites, are a direct result of truck traffic, large generators, compressors, drills, (University of Colorado Study). This pollution can jeopardize efforts to reduce green house gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 as mandated by AB 32.

The Inglewood Oil Field is comprised of 1000 acres, making it the largest urban oil field in the nation (*KTLA News*, July 3, 2012). South Robertson is Culver City's neighbor to the north. 10% of the oil field's surface is in Culver City, but Culver City sits on 20% of the underground portion of the oilfield (as defined by the state's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources or "DOGGR").

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Martin Epstein**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920  
F: (310) 295-9906  
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org





After attending a fracking workshop, hosted by the State of California’s DOGGR, the Culver City council members “were prompted to vote on the resolution [banning fracking] after receiving very little information from the workshop.” (Los Angeles Times, “*Culver City Council Calls on State to Ban Fracking Temporarily*,” July 3, 2012)

**See “Attachment A”: Culver City Resolution R057**

Both of SORONC's city councilmen, Herb Wesson and Paul Koretz, have drafted a resolution calling for a moratorium on fracking “and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells , until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, for the water supply and for the environment.”

**See “Attachment B” : The Los Angeles City Council Koretz/Wesson Resolution**

South Robertson’s Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas has also written a letter in support of State Assembly Bill 972 that calls for a moratorium on fracking.

Concerned about the lack of both state and local regulations governing the process of fracking, the Green Team Committee recommends that the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council stand in support of Koretz/Wesson Resolution and vote for a moratorium on fracking until it is regulated and proven safe for humans and the environment.

**Proposed Motion**

MOTION, that the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council send a letter to the appropriate legislators supporting the LA City Council Koretz/Wesson Resolution calling for a moratorium on fracking, and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, the Los Angeles water supply and for the environment.

**See Attachment C: Letter**

**Considerations**

<b>Committee review:</b> <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 1 <i>(late arrival)</i>
---	--------------	------------	-------------------------------------

**Arguments for:**

California aquifers are vulnerable to contamination by toxic fracking wastewater. Currently it is difficult to connect well contamination to fracking companies, because oil companies are not required to disclose the chemicals they use in fracking water.

**Arguments against:**

Although evidence of aquifer contamination exists, it is hard to prove that contamination comes directly from the fracking of California wells



Californians are subjected to periodic earthquakes. Wells can crack when ground shifts. No monitoring of leaks.

Although evidence of earth instability exists as a result of fracking in California and other states, none has been directly linked to the Inglewood Oil Field

**Economic Impact:**

-California cannot afford to jeopardize its extremely limited water supply.

**Economic Impact:**

-Oil Companies would have to suspend fracking operations until government agencies can set up regulations and enforcement procedures. This could result in the lay off of oil company employees involved in fracking.  
-This could temporarily impact oil company revenues

-According to Bob Pettinato of the DWP, California gets very little of its natural gas from local/California drilling and almost no oil. Most of DWP's natural gas comes from an interstate pipeline.

-We continue to pay for the effects of environmental degradation. This becomes more expensive the longer we continue developing sources of energy without paying proper attention to the consequences of the process.

Climate/environmental/health problems  
-As traditional sources of non-renewable energy become more expensive to produce, renewable energy (solar, geothermal, wind, hydroelectric) becomes more profitable which could result in a growth of green jobs and healthier citizens.

-Fracking releases natural gas which is a clean burning source of energy. Developing our natural gas resources is critical to the reversal of climate change.

Fracking releases methane which is one of the most potent green house gases.

## **RESOLUTION**

*WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and*

*WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, is a type of resource extraction that potentially threatens the health of both the public, the Los Angeles city water supply and the environment, and requires unconventional drilling techniques, vast quantities of water, and the use of toxic chemicals; and*

*WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry has been granted exceptions to multiple laws and regulations, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act, and employs potentially hundreds of unknown chemicals of concern; and*

*WHEREAS, in a study of Pavillion, Wyoming, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently documented water contamination from fracking chemicals; and*

*WHEREAS, fracking wastewater may often be laced with hundreds of toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM); and*

*WHEREAS, due to the volume and chemical complexity of fracking waste, treating such unknown waste is difficult, making the disposal of fracking wastewater a significant challenge; and that the disposal methods currently available in California have an imminent possibility of reaching local streams and rivers, which supply Los Angeles' drinking water; and*

*WHEREAS, rivers, streams and wetlands across our state and particularly within the watersheds from which the City of Los Angeles derives its water supply are vulnerable to pollution by fracking; and*

*WHEREAS, fracking is currently causing serious local and regional air pollution problems across the country, including the release of such hazardous air pollutants as methanol, formaldehyde, and carbon disulfide; in addition to the release of volatile organic compounds, including benzene and toluene, and nitrogen oxides; and emissions from heavy-duty truck traffic, large generators and compressors at well sites which contribute to smog formation; and*

*WHEREAS, emissions generated by producing, refining and burning shale oil, and drilling and fracking for shale oil can result in significant uncontrolled emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas often associated underground with oil; and*

*WHEREAS, fracking in California may undermine the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; and*

*WHEREAS, much of the State of California and Los Angeles, in particular, is located on top of fault lines within one of the most active and potentially dangerous earthquake zones in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, Ohio has experienced a dozen unusual earthquakes, the most severe occurring on December 31, 2011, caused by a Class II injection well disposing of fracking wastewater, which resulted in a moratorium on injection wells in the Youngstown, Ohio, area; and*

*WHEREAS, there have been thousands of recorded minor earthquakes clustered around fracking wastewater disposal wells in central Arkansas and Oklahoma, which the United States Geological Survey “almost certainly” attributes to fracking wastewater disposal activities, and a 5.6 quake in Oklahoma which “was possibly triggered by fluid injection” at nearby wastewater wells; and*

*WHEREAS, numerous townships, cities, states, and countries have banned or issued moratoriums on horizontal hydraulic fracturing and waste injection wells, including the states of New Jersey, North Carolina, and New York; the cities of Buffalo, NY and Pittsburgh, PA; the Delaware River Gap; and, internationally, in the Canadian Province of Quebec, Germany, France and Bulgaria; and*

*WHEREAS, the EPA is currently conducting a study, to be completed in 2015, to determine the risks associated with this new industry; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of California’s Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) reports that oil and gas companies are currently fracking in California and specifically, in the Inglewood Oil Field in Los Angeles County, in a region which also affects the residents of Los Angeles, and that these companies have proposed future fracking activities; and*

*WHEREAS, the State of California’s Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is not currently able to “identify where and how often hydraulic fracturing occurs within the state” and “has not yet developed regulations to address this activity.”*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2011-2012 Legislative Program support for Governor Jerry Brown, for the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and for the State of California’s Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to move swiftly to place a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, for the Los Angeles water supply and for the environment.***

*PRESENTED BY*

*PAUL KORETZ Councilmember, 5th District*

*HERB WESSON Councilmember, 10th District*

*SECONDED BY*

*BERNARD PARKS Councilmember, 8th District*



Letter to be sent to:

Governor Jerry Brown, State of California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), LA City Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Herb Wesson, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, State Assembly Members Betsy Butler and Holly Mitchell, Supervisor, Second District Mark Ridley-Thomas, Culver City Council

16 August 2012

Re: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OR "FRACKING"

Dear Governor Brown:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council stands in support of the Los Angeles City Council Koretz/Wesson Resolution calling for, "... the Governor of the State of California, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to move swiftly to place a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells, until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, for the water supply and for the environment."

On a local level, we also support the Culver City Council's July 2012 Resolution R057 "to immediately place a ban on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of "fracking" wastewater by injection wells until the State of California and DOGGR takes all necessary and appropriate actions to adopt, implement and enforce comprehensive regulations concerning the practice of fracking that will ensure that public health and safety and the environment will be adequately protected."

Hydraulic fracturing is the process in which a high volume of water, sand and chemicals is forced into the earth under enormous pressure causing shale to "fracture," releasing oil and gas and creating large volumes of contaminated wastewater. Our primary concerns are:

1. The safe disposal of thousands of gallons of toxic wastewater, which can also result in the contamination of underground aquifers. Fracking contaminants such as benzene, diesel fuel, high levels of fluoride, surfactant 2-BE and other chemicals have been found in aquifers in over 1000 documented cases. (ProPublica, "*Buried Secrets: Is Natural Gas Drilling Endangering U.S. Water Supplies?*," Nov. 13, 2008.) According to an EPA report dated Dec. 2011, fracking resulted in groundwater contamination in Pavilion, Wyoming (Los Angeles Times, "*Culver City Councils Calls on State to Ban Fracking Temporarily*," July 3, 2012). Furthermore, it is unclear what government agencies are responsible for the monitoring and the processing of fracking wastewater.
2. The large amount of water required in the process of hydraulic fracturing when California water is a scarce resource. Fracking in the Inglewood Oil Field, located partially in Culver City, produced 126 million barrels of toxic wastewater in 2011. (Mar Vista Resolution) Furthermore, according to the Inglewood Oil Field EIR, 100 new wells are planned for the Culver City section of the Inglewood Oil Field over the next 20 years.
3. Earth instability, including earthquakes, can result from injection wells according to a U.S. Geological Survey conducted in March, 2012. In addition, there is concern about the rupture of wells resulting from regularly occurring earthquakes in California and whether or not these ruptures can be quickly detected if they happen. The Inglewood Oil Field lies above the Newport-Inglewood Fault line. (Los Angeles Times, "*Culver City Council Calls on State to Ban Fracking Temporarily*," July 3, 2012) **It is also true that a large**

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Martin Epstein**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920  
F: (310) 295-9906  
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org





**insurer**, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., will no longer pay for “damage related to ...gas drilling”. (Associated Press, *U.S. Insurer Won't Cover Gas Drill Fracking Exposure*, Albany, N.Y. July 12, 2012)

4. Air pollution, which has been measured at five times above federal hazard standards near fracking sites, are a direct result of truck traffic, large generators, compressors, drills, (University of Colorado study). This pollution can jeopardize efforts to reduce green house gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 as mandated by AB 32.

The Inglewood Oil Field in Culver City is comprised of 1000 acres, making it the largest urban oil field in the nation ([KTLA News](#), July 3, 2012). South Robertson is Culver City’s neighbor to the north. 10% of the oil field’s surface is in Culver City, but Culver City sits on 20% of the underground portion of the oilfield (as defined by the state’s Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources or “DOGGR”).

After attending a fracking workshop, hosted by the State of California’s DOGGR, the Culver City council members “were prompted to vote on the resolution [banning fracking] after receiving very little information from the workshop.” ([Los Angeles Times](#), “*Culver City Council Calls on State to Ban Fracking Temporarily*,” July 3, 2012) In addition, the South Robertson Neighborhood Council joins with South Robertson’s LA County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas in support of State Assembly Bill 972 that calls for a moratorium.

Concerned about the lack of both state and local regulations governing the process of fracking, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports a moratorium of this process and an immediate adoption and enforcement of regulations governing its practice, in order to protect our environment, community, homes, and citizens.

Yours truly,

Doug FitzSimmons  
President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

May 2012

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Fracking in California-Ban**

Dear Governor Brown:

From the Sacramento Valley to Los Angeles County, the oil and gas industry has only just begun to frack California. Next generation fracking is now here.

Millions of gallons of a mixture of water, sand and chemicals can now be injected deep underground at high pressure to fracture shale and other tight rock formations, allowing oil or gas to flow. This is a radical departure from the fracking traditionally done in California to “rework” wells, wringing out more production after wells were first drilled.

While modern drilling and fracking may be an engineering marvel, it results in millions of gallons of toxic wastewater and thousands of tons of solid waste for each new well. It causes serious air pollution problems and creates serious short- and long-term risks to drinking water resources.<sup>1,2</sup> And it compounds the already alarming threats that global climate change poses to the California economy.

**In order to protect California public health and environment, the undersigned organizations urge you to place an immediate ban on fracking in California.**

Fracking pollutes water

Many of the industry’s targeted wells are in the Sacramento River watershed and San Francisco Bay Delta areas<sup>3</sup>, a source of drinking water for over 23 million Californians.

Known and suspected carcinogens, including naphthalene, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and acrylamide, have been consistently used in fracking fluid. In a draft report published in December 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found that fracking likely explained groundwater contamination in Pavilion, WY.<sup>4</sup> In addition to fracking chemicals, fracking wastewater contains potentially extreme levels of naturally occurring but harmful contaminants, such as toxic metals and radioactive material.

In 2002, California agencies reviewed oil exploration and production wastes to consider whether such wastes should continue to be considered “non-hazardous”. Thanks to a special oil and gas industry exemption, the non-hazardous status was maintained. However, waste from fracking was not considered in this review.

In California, wastewater from fracking and conventional drilling is often injected underground into wells not designed to hold fracking wastewater. In 2008 oil companies in Kern County pumped 425 million barrels of wastewater into such wells.<sup>5</sup> These wells have been known to leak, resulting in groundwater pollution. One farmer in Kern County suffered \$2 billion in economic loss when his crops died as a result of groundwater contaminated from oil drilling wastewater.<sup>6</sup> In 2011 alone, industry wastewater from the Inglewood Oil Field of Los Angeles produced over 126 million barrels of wastewater that was then pumped back into over 200 wells.<sup>7</sup>

The Plains Exploration and Production Corporation (PXP) has already fracked two wells at the Inglewood Field<sup>8</sup> and plans to continue the practice, which threatens to contaminate local groundwater and Ballona Creek, which discharges into Santa Monica Bay. In June of 2011, the EPA found that the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is not adequately safeguarding California's water from pollution from faulty wells citing inadequate staffing among other problems.<sup>9</sup>

#### Fracking pollutes air

Fracking is resulting in serious local and regional air pollution problems across the country. Hazardous air pollutants found near fracking sites include methanol, formaldehyde, and carbon disulfide. Volatile organic compounds, including nitrogen oxides, benzene and toluene, are also discharged during fracking.<sup>10</sup> These compounds mix with emissions from heavy-duty truck traffic, large generators and compressors at well sites and contribute to smog formation.<sup>11</sup> A recent study by the University of Colorado found rates of air pollutants five times above a federal hazard standard near fracking sites in Colorado.<sup>12</sup> Increased air pollution from fracking is of particular concern in California, with many areas having some of the worst air quality in our nation.

In addition, widespread drilling and fracking in California will only undermine the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, pursuant to AB 32. In addition to emissions generated by producing, refining and burning shale oil, drilling and fracking for shale oil can result in significant uncontrolled emissions of methane; a potent greenhouse gas often associated underground with oil.<sup>13</sup>

#### Fracking and earthquakes

What is known is that oil and gas extraction has caused earthquakes in California in the past, most notably in Wilmington, California from 1947 to 1961<sup>14</sup>, and more recently a dozen small earthquakes shook Eastern Ohio<sup>15</sup> due to fracking wastewater being disposed of in underground injection disposal wells. What is unknown is whether the modern fracking in California, and the disposal of massive volumes of fracking wastewater, will end up causing potentially destructive earthquakes in California's future.

The Inglewood Oil Field, situated in a community of 300,000 people, lies over two earthquake faults.<sup>16</sup> Since PXP escalated its drilling in 2006, local residents have seen their homes crack and their land sink. Ever more powerful and intense fracking could result in much greater and more costly property damages for these local residents.

#### Conclusion

Because of these severe consequences, a ban is essential to protect California. The mere disclosure of where fracking is occurring and the chemicals used in the process does not prevent them from polluting our air and water. The fracking process is simply too dangerous to be properly regulated. As fracking operations continue to threaten California, we urge you to take swift action and issue an immediate ban on all fracking operations in California.

Sincerely,

**Signers of the California Ban on Fracking Letter  
Modified 8/14/12**

**Statewide**

- California Food and Justice Coalition
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Clean Water Action
- Environment CA
- Environmental Defense Center
- Global Green USA

**Northern California**

- 18 reasons
- Alameda Creek Alliance
- Ashoka's Youth Venture
- Barbara J. Parker, Oakland City Attorney
- Bay Localize
- Bernal Heights Democratic Club
- Bernal Heights Democratic Club
- Bi-rite Market
- Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
- Earth Law Center
- ECO-SF
- Ecology Center
- Ella Baker Center
- Institute for Fisheries Resources
- Jackson Project Services
- Jaspari Design
- Mission Buzz
- Mission San Jose School of Guitar
- Oakland Councilmember
- Ohlone Audubon Society
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
- PropCover Inc
- Zoram

**Southern California**

- Community Coalition for a Safe Community
- Culver City Democratic Club
- Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council (greater Baldwin Hills)
- Grassroots Coalition
- Mar Vista Community Council

---

<sup>1</sup> Urbina, Ian "Regulation lax as gas wells' tainted water hits rivers." *The New York Times*. February 26, 2011; 76 U.S. Fed. Reg. 66286, 66296 (October 26, 2011); Mall and Donnelly (2010) at 8 to 9.

<sup>2</sup> Sumi, Lisa. Oil & Gas Accountability Project. "Our drinking water resources at risk: what EPA and the oil and gas industry don't want us to know about hydraulic fracturing." April 2009

<sup>3</sup> California Department of Conservation. "Map of oil, gas and geothermal fields in California." 2001. Available at [ftp://ftp.conserv.ca.gov/pub/oil/maps/Map\\_S-1.pdf](ftp://ftp.conserv.ca.gov/pub/oil/maps/Map_S-1.pdf). Accessed May 7, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. EPA. "Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming." Draft. (EPA 600/R-00/000). December 2011 at xiii.

<sup>5</sup> Miller, Jeremy. "The colonization of Kern County." *Orion Magazine*. January/February 2011 at 7.

<sup>6</sup> Miller, Jeremy. "Oil and Water Don't Mix with California Agriculture." *High Country News*. High Country News, 15 Dec. 2010. Web. [http://www.hcn.org/issues/42.21/oil-and-water-dont-mix-with-california-agriculture/print\\_view](http://www.hcn.org/issues/42.21/oil-and-water-dont-mix-with-california-agriculture/print_view).

<sup>7</sup> California Department of Conservation (2012) at 4.

<sup>8</sup> FracFocus. Data available at <http://www.hydraulicfracturingdisclosure.org/fracfocusfind/>. Accessed May 2012.

<sup>9</sup> Albright, David. "USEPA July 18, 2011 Letter." United States Environmental Protection Agency, 11 July 2011. Web.

[ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/oil/UIC%20Files/USEPA\\_July18\\_2011\\_Letter.pdf](ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/oil/UIC%20Files/USEPA_July18_2011_Letter.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Kelly, David. "Study shows air emissions near fracking sites may pose health risk." *Study of Health Impacts in Air near Fracking Sites*. University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, 19 Mar. 2012. Web.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/health-impacts-of-fracking-emissions.aspx>.

<sup>11</sup> Colborn, Theo et. al. "Natural Gas Operations from a Public Health Perspective." *International Journal of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*, vol. 17, iss. 5. September 2011 at 1041 and 1042.

<sup>12</sup> Jaffe, Mark. "CU Denver Study Links Fracking to Higher Concentration of Air Pollutants." *DenverPost.com*. The Denver Post, 20 Mar. 2012.

[http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_20210720/cu-denver-study-links-fracking-higher-concentration-air](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20210720/cu-denver-study-links-fracking-higher-concentration-air).

<sup>13</sup> Osborn SG, et al. Methane contamination of drinking water accompanying gas-well drilling and hydraulic fracturing. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 108208172–8176.81762011. doi: doi: 10.1073/pnas.1100682108. Available at

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/cgc/pnas2011.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Soraghan, Mike. "Oil and Gas: Earthquakes Erode Support for Drilling, but They're Nothing New." *E&E Publishing*, 5 Jan. 2012. Web.

<http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2012/01/05/1>.

<sup>15</sup> "Preliminary Report On The Northstar 1 Class II Injection Well And The Seismic Events In The Youngstown, Ohio, Are." Ohio Department Of Natural Resources, Mar. 2012. Web.

<sup>16</sup> Dolan, James F., Eldon M. Gath, Lisa B. Grant, Mark Legg, Scott Lindvall, Karl Mueller, Michael Oskin, Daniel F. Ponti, Charles M. Rubin, Thomas A. Rockwell, John H. Shaw, Jerome A. Treiman, Chris Walls, and Robert S. Yeats. "Active Faults in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Region." Southern California Earthquake Center Group C, n.d. Web. <http://www.scec.org/research/special/SCEC001activefaultsLA.pdf>.