

**IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT FOR PHASING OUT
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA
CFROG - CLIMATE FIRST: REPLACING OIL AND GAS
RESOLUTION 24-03**

WHEREAS, California is the nation’s seventh-largest oil-producing state, producing over 150 million barrels of oil per year, refining around [500 million barrels of oil per year](#),¹ and estimated to contain half of the nation’s heavy oil; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County is the [third-largest producer](#)² of oil and gas in California; and

WHEREAS, nearly [7.5 million Californians](#)³ live within one mile of an active oil or gas site, and over 2 million Californians, disproportionately people of color, live within 3,200ft of an oil or gas well; and

WHEREAS, more than [8,000 Ventura County residents](#)⁴ live within 2,500 feet of an oil well, and approximately 60 percent of those residents are Latino; and

WHEREAS, California Governor Newsom’s administration has approved more than 3,130 [new permits](#)⁵ for oil drilling since January, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2021, [Governor Newsom announced his administration would take steps to plan](#)⁶ for an end to oil extraction by 2045 and phase out fracking by 2024; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a [report](#)⁷ unequivocally stating that human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and irreversible ways, which UN Secretary-General António Guterres called a “code red for humanity”; and

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2023, the State of California Legislature endorsed a [Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty](#)⁸, making California the largest global economy to support a global plan to stop fossil fuel expansion and phase out coal, oil, and gas; and

¹ Oil Supply Sources To California Refineries. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/energy-almanac/californias-petroleum-market/oil-supply-sources-california-refineries>

² Oil & Gas Activity in Ventura County, CA. Retrieved on November 15, 2023 from <https://www.shalex.com/california/ventura-county>

³ Ferrar, K. People and production: Reducing risk in California extraction. (2021). Retrieved from https://www.fractracker.org/a5ej20sifwe/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fractracker_SchoolEnrollmentReport_11.17.14.pdf

⁴ Attorney General Bonta Files Brief in Defense of Ventura County Policies to Protect Communities from Harmful Effects of Oil and Gas Drilling. (2022). Retrieved from <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-files-brief-defense-ventura-county-policies-protect#:~:text=In%20Ventura%20County%2C%20more%20than%20gas%20drilling%20are%20well%20established.>

⁵ Power BI Report. (2021). Retrieved from <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjojNGQzZWU1N2Q0tNjNmYy00ODQyLWJlNDU0ODBiYy2MiYyYzIzIiwidCI6IjRlNTk4OGEFILTUhMDA4NDBlOC1lMDY1LWVwMTdmOWM5OTQ5NC19>

⁶ Governor Newsom Takes Action to Phase Out Oil Extraction in California | California Governor. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/04/23/governor-newsom-takes-action-to-phase-out-oil-extraction-in-california/>

⁷ Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying. IPCC. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>

⁸ State of California Becomes the Largest Economy to Endorse the Call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. (2023). Retrieved from <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/california-assembly>

WHEREAS, On November 11, 2021, the State of California joined the international [Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance](#),⁹ aligning itself with nations committing to phasing out oil and gas production; and

WHEREAS, if current fossil fuel production rates stay constant, [scientists predict](#)¹⁰ that irreversible effects of climate change will be visible before 2050 and as early as the next decade, years before California Governor Newsom's current plan to phase out fossil fuel production; and

WHEREAS, if state regulators do not reduce oil and gas emissions, California will not meet its [legislative mandate](#)¹¹ of lowering greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, since Ventura County contains many wells near people's homes, the [California Council on Science and Technology](#)¹² recommendation of a health and safety buffer zone between sensitive sites and oil and gas wells, which cites studies on the harms oil drilling poses to human health should be adhered to; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling releases high, dangerous amounts of air pollution that have been connected to cause of severe headaches, childhood leukemia, asthma symptoms, birth defects, and cardiac problems; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2022, California Governor Newsom [signed legislation](#)¹³ into law that will introduce [3,200-ft setback buffer zones](#) between new oil wells and sensitive sites like homes, schools, and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2023, California's oil and gas regulatory agency, CalGEM, suspended implementation of the 3,200-ft setback buffer zones rule after the oil industry qualified a ballot measure challenging the setbacks rule that will be voted on by all Californians in November 2024; and

WHEREAS, various methods of oil extraction leak methane, which is up to [105 times as powerful](#)¹⁴ as carbon dioxide as a greenhouse pollutant; and

WHEREAS, scientists have concluded that the probability that anthropogenic greenhouse gasses have caused the global temperature to increase in the last 50 years is over [97 percent](#);¹⁵ and

WHEREAS, if the number of oil extraction sites increases, the number of air pollutants and amount of greenhouse gasses in our environment will increase to unsustainable levels that threaten the health and future of the Oxnard Union High School District students; and

WHEREAS, by the mid-21st century, researchers project that the number of days with a heat index over 100°F will double and days with an index of [105°F will triple nationwide](#)¹⁶ due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)¹⁷ states that children are more vulnerable to heatwaves; and

⁹ *Civil society reaction to launch of Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance*. Oil Change International. (2021). Retrieved from <https://priceofoil.org/2021/11/11/civil-society-reaction-to-launch-of-beyond-oil-and-gas-alliance/>

¹⁰ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report*. (2023). Retrieved from https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

¹¹ *Governor Brown establishes most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target in North America*. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2015/04/29/news18938/index.html>

¹² California Council on Science and Technology. (2015). *An Examination of Hydraulic Fracturing and Acid Stimulation in the Oil and Gas Industry* [Ebook]. Retrieved from <https://cst.us/wp-content/uploads/2015SB4-v2ES.pdf>

¹³ Bill Status - SB-1137 Oil and gas: operations: location restrictions: notice of intention: health protection zone: sensitive receptors. (2022). Retrieved from https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1137

¹⁴ Natural Gas. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/ending-the-climate-crisis/issues/natural-gas/>

¹⁵ *Scientific Consensus: Earth's Climate Is Warming*. Retrieved from <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>

¹⁶ Heat Waves and Climate Change | Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. Retrieved from <https://www.c2es.org/content/heat-waves-and-climate-change/>

¹⁷ American Academy of Pediatrics. *Global Climate Change and Children's Health*. (2015). Retrieved from <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/136/5/e1468/33813/Global-Climate-Change-and-Children-s-Health>

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [found](#)¹⁸ that the leading cause of disability and mortality among high school and college athletes is heat illness, and the individuals at the greatest risk are from [ages 15-19](#);¹⁹ and

WHEREAS, climate change predominantly fueled by burning fossil fuels has already intensified unprecedented natural disasters, devastating storms, historic droughts, wildfires, and extreme heat which are affecting Oxnard Union High School students' physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, from August 2020 to July 2021, California recorded [nine of the twenty largest wildfires](#)²⁰ in the state since 1932; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling and climate change widen the disparities between [children's physical and mental health](#)²¹ as a result of racism and poverty; and

WHEREAS, [352,782](#)²² students in California, predominantly from Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, attend school within one mile of an oil and gas well; and

WHEREAS, children are [more vulnerable to the diseases caused by poor air quality](#)²³ because they spend more time outside, have immature/developing lungs, and breathe in more per body weight; and

WHEREAS, frontline communities residing in Ventura County are disproportionately harmed by climate change and environmental impacts, including significantly worse air pollution, causing residents to develop asthma, heat island effect, and elevated infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, The [California PTA passed a resolution](#)²⁴ that recognized the harms that climate change presents to children's health and urges action around averting the effects of the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the most vulnerable Frontline Communities in Ventura are the urban centers in the nearest proximity to the oil fields

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Oxnard Union High School District urges Governor Newsom, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and all local government agencies to continue to develop policies to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and immediately stop issuing new permits for oil & gas production and to accelerate the process of phasing out oil and gas extraction in California through a just transition that protects workers and frontline communities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Oxnard Union High School District urges Governor Newsom support for 3,200 ft health and safety setback distances between oil extraction and sensitive sites, including but not limited to school campuses, paths of travel to school and school athletic areas and urges him to do everything in his power to defend these setbacks from efforts to overturn or otherwise undermine them; and

¹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Heat Illness Among High School Athletes - United States, 2005-2009. (2010). Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5932a1.htm?s_cid=mm5932a1_w

¹⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Nonfatal Sports and Recreation Heat Illness Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments - United States, 2001-2009*. (2011). Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6029a1.htm?s_cid=mm6029a1_e&source=govdelivery

²⁰ *Top 20 largest California wildfires*. (2022). Retrieved from https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4jandlhh/top20_acres.pdf

²¹ Chalupka, S., Anderko, L., & Pennea, E. Climate Change, Climate Justice, and Children's Mental Health: A Generation at Risk? (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/env.2019.0034?journalCode=env>

²² Ferrar, K. People and production: Reducing risk in California extraction. (2021). Retrieved from https://www.fractracker.org/a5ej20sjfwe/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fractracker_SchoolEnrollmentReport_11.17.14.pdf

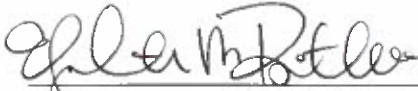
²³ Danelski, D. (n.d.). *Health: Children are more vulnerable to air pollution effects*. (2013). Retrieved from <https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/fellowships/projects/health-children-are-more-vulnerable-air-pollution-effects>

²⁴ Magee, M. *Schools to establish climate action plan*. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sdut-sd-schools-adopt-climate-action-plan-2015ju15-story.html>

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Oxnard Union High School District will continue to recognize climate change and climate justice as issues of importance to Ventura County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Oxnard Union High School District will continue to transition to renewable energy sources with the urgency that the climate crisis calls for.

Adopted January 17, 2024.



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