

October 4, 2013

U.S. Department of the Interior, State Director
State Director James G. Kenna
Bureau of Land Management, Central California District
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
jkenna@blm.gov

Re: BLM EIS Scoping for Oil and Gas Leasing on California Public Lands, Statewide Independent Scientific Review and Amendments to Hollister Resource Management Plan (78 Fed. Reg. 47408 (August 5, 2013)).

Dear Director Kenna:

On behalf of the members of the more than 100 undersigned organizations, we respectfully request BLM to continue to prohibit new oil and gas lease sales on California's public lands while you study fracking's threats to our Golden State. Critical decisions about opening more of California public lands to oil and gas development and fracking cannot be informed decisions until your studies are complete.

We also request that you thoroughly evaluate the full array of environmental and public health impacts of hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil and gas extraction methods as part of your scoping for (1) the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Oil and Gas Leasing on California Public Land, (2) the independent scientific study of fracking statewide, and (3) potential amendments to the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Determining the proper scope of these studies is a critical step in assessing the true impact of oil and gas activity on public lands. The scope of BLM's evaluation should include all types of unconventional oil and gas recovery, including but not limited to hydraulic fracturing, acidization, and gravel packing. The studies should also include all stages and all aspects of oil and gas recovery, from construction, drilling, and truck traffic to production, waste disposal, and the end use of extracted fossil fuels.

These dangerous extraction techniques threaten our health, safety, and environment in numerous ways, each deserving of a thorough assessment. The impacts include surface and groundwater contamination, water resource depletion, air contamination, induced seismic activity, light and noise pollution, increased truck traffic, and the contribution to catastrophic climate change. Each of these can lead to a detrimental effect on human health and safety as well as harm to plants and animals and their habitats. BLM should also study the disproportionate impact of oil and gas leases on communities already overburdened with these extractive industries and other forms of pollution.

Due to the wide-ranging dangers of unconventional oil and gas extraction, we strongly urge BLM to extend its current moratorium on oil and gas leases and to thoroughly evaluate the full array of impacts and threats.

Respectfully submitted,
350 Bay Area
350 Marin
350 San Francisco
350 Santa Barbara
Alameda County Green Party
Alameda Creek Alliance
Baldwin Hills Oil Watch
Ballona Creek Renaissance
Bay Localize
Breast Cancer Action
Butte County Citizen Action Network
California Coastkeeper Alliance
California Environmental Justice Alliance
California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Californians for Western Wilderness
Camp Nast Associates LLC
Center for Biological Diversity
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
Central California Environmental Justice Network
Citizen Action Network
Citizen Planning, South Monterey County, California
Citizen's Coalition for a Safe Community
Citizens For Responsible Oil & Gas (CFROG)
Clean Water Action
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.
Common Sense Design
Courage Campaign
CREDO
Democracy for America
Earthworks
Ecological Farming Association
Elder Creek Center For The Land
Environment California
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Protection Information Center
Environmental Working Group
Family Farm Defenders
Food and Water Watch
Food Empowerment Project

Foundation of Sustainable Living (FOSL)
Fresnans Against Fracking
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Pogonip
Garaventa Consulting
Gasland Grassroots
Global Community Monitor
Global Environmental Options
Global Exchange
Grassroots Coalition - LA, CA
Gray Panthers of the East Bay
Green Party
Green Party of Monterey County
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Greenpeace
Halt Oil Lease Drilling Now, Monterey, California (HOLD)
Harrington Plastics
Joanna Macy Intensives
Klamath-Siskiyou Wild
KyotoUSA
Label GMOs.org
Laytonville Grange #726
League of Women Voters of California
Local Clean Energy Alliance
Los Padres ForestWatch
Mainstreet Moms
Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment
Monterey Against Fracking
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northcoast Environmental Center
Ocean Protection Coalition (OPC)
Oil Change International
Organic Consumers Association
Progressive Democrats of America
Protect Mustangs
Psychotherapy Works, Inc.
Public Citizen
Rainforest Action Network
Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment
San Benito Rising
SanDiego350
San Joaquin Valley Latino Environment Advancement Project
Santa Barbara Frack Back To Save The Central Coast
SaveWithSunlight
Sierra Club California

SLO Clean Water Action
Small Planet Institute
SoCal Climate Action Coalition
Stewards of the Earth
Tar Sands Action SoCal
The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment
The River Project
Topanga Peace Alliance
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Valley Improvement Projects
Ventura County, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Westwood Homeowners Association
Wholly H2O
Wild Equity Institute
Wild Heritage Planners
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom