



Summer Report

Environmental nightmare in the making

Fracking would put our land, air and water at risk

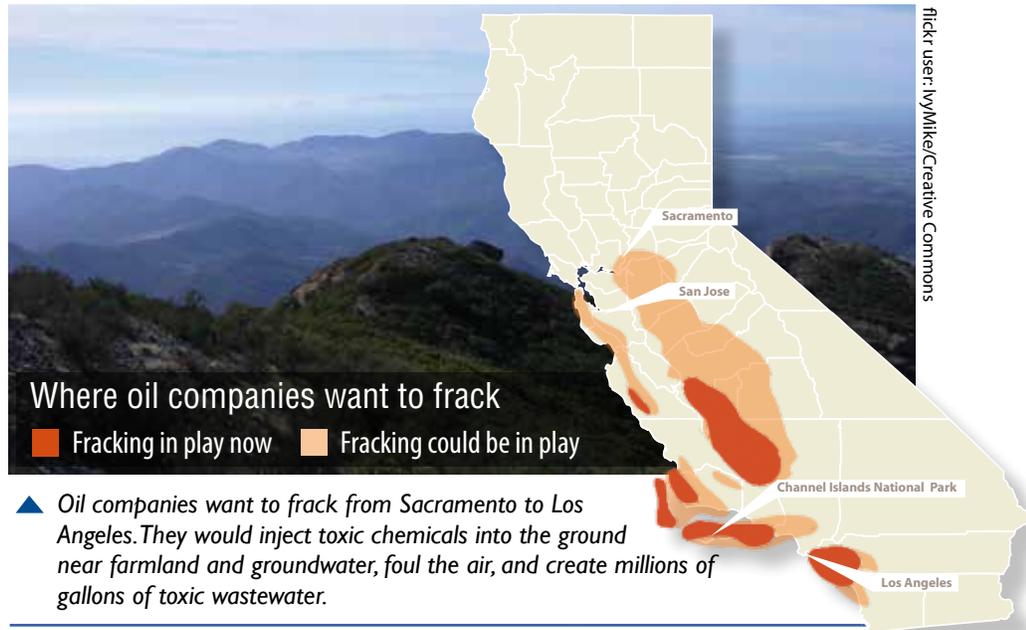
Fracking has been wreaking havoc across the U.S., and in recent years, fracking projects have sprouted up across California—totally unmonitored by any state agency. This dirty, dangerous method of drilling for oil and natural gas laces millions of gallons of water with poisonous chemicals and known carcinogens, and then shoots this toxic cocktail into the earth to get at oil and natural gas locked beneath the surface.

Now, big oil companies want to use fracking to get at oil locked within the Monterey Shale here in California. If they are allowed to do this, it could result in a slowly unfolding nightmare for our water, farmland, and ultimately our climate.

In the face of this new and dangerous threat, Environment California is working to convince Gov. Jerry Brown to ban fracking in California. Through our independent research, direct advocacy and citizen outreach, we are building the case and public support it will take to keep fracking out of California.

Toxic frack-fluid

Fracking processes require millions of gallons of water laced with toxic chemicals. And once this water is turned into toxic frack-fluid, it must be disposed of somewhere. The solution that oil and gas companies have for this problem is to inject this poisonous wastewater back into the earth after it's used, in order to get rid of it. In states like New York and Pennsylvania, this has resulted in tainted



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underground aquifers, undrinkable tap water, and sick and dying livestock near fracking sites.

At a time when California is facing continued drought and sweltering temperatures, the last thing we should be doing with our clean water is loading it with toxic chemicals in order to produce more fossil fuels, which when burned, will

emit greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming.

Just as public pressure in opposition to fracking convinced Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York to take a closer look at the risks inherent in fracking and change his mind about this poisonous practice, California can convince Gov. Brown to stop fracking in our state.

The California Channel



more online

Read more about our work to ban fracking in California on our website: www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org.

◀ Environment California Legislative Director Dan Jacobson testifies in the Capitol for a ban on fracking.



To our members

I love the summer. All year, I look forward to going to the beach, hiking in my favorite parks, or having a barbecue with neighbors on the back porch—but my favorite part of summer? Working with our citizen outreach team.

From Sacramento to San Diego, passionate folks will be educating people about keeping California safe from dangerous fracking and protecting the Pacific from plastic pollution. They will educate hundreds of thousands of your neighbors and deliver tens of thousands of petitions to key decision makers.

The only way to stand up to oil and gas companies and the plastics industry is by bringing committed and educated people together. Our staff in blue T-shirts will likely be in your neighborhood doing just that. When you see them—say hello for me!

Sincerely,

Dan Jacobson
Legislative Director

Recent action

L.A. mayoral candidates endorse bold solar plan

As anyone who has flown into LAX knows, Los Angeles has a lot of empty rooftop space. During the day, southern California's famous sunshine bathes those rooftops in virtually endless amounts of pollution-free energy. That's why Environment California is leading a campaign to make Los Angeles a world-class solar leader, putting solar on housing, offices, schools and warehouses.

This winter, we succeeded in securing endorsements from both mayoral candidates, Eric Garcetti and Wendy Greuel, of our goal for Los Angeles to install 1,200 megawatts of rooftop solar power by 2020, generating nearly 20 percent of the city's peak summertime electricity needs. By mobilizing thousands of Angelenos, picking up endorsements from 30 businesses and organizations, and generating media about the city's solar future, we are building strong momentum toward a cleaner future for Los Angeles.

More schools continue to go solar

"California school districts are adding a fourth "r" to the building blocks of education: reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and renewables," said Michelle Kinman, clean energy advocate with Environment California Research & Policy Center. "Schools all across California are saving significant dollars by going solar, and helping reduce air pollution."

According to school and solar advocates, California schools have already begun and should continue laying the groundwork for the next great energy transition.

"The movement toward greener schools will help create jobs, protect our environment, save money and create teachable moments for students all at the same time," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, whose Schools of the Future initiative highlights ways to retool California's school construction process to foster 21st century learning—recommendations that include making the most of schools' solar power potential.

Toward a greener future

Environment California and Environment California Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentCalifornia.org.

Photo by Rick Green Photography/Cliff & Dick

(From above to right) Clean Energy Advocate Michelle Kinman on Fox News; Los Angeles mayoral candidates Wendy Greuel and Eric Garcetti endorse goal of 20 percent solar in L.A. by 2020



(clockwise from left) Fox Business News; flickr user: walkarrrrr/Creative Commons; Eric Garcetti/Creative Commons

Once in a lifetime opportunity to expand Yosemite

Yosemite is the jewel of the Sierras. From Half Dome and El Capitan, to Yosemite Falls and the Yosemite Valley, protecting this breathtaking place was one of America's best ideas, and now, we have a unique opportunity to expand Yosemite National Park to better fulfill John Muir's original vision.

The land that stands to be added to the park would provide a critical wildlife corridor between Yosemite National Park and Sierra National Forest. And thanks in part to the action of Environment California staff and members, Sen. Dianne Feinstein has introduced a bill in Congress to make this expansion a reality.

We can save 1,600 unspoiled acres

To pass this bill and protect these nearly 1,600 acres forever, Environment California has been raising the profile of this issue and showing lawmakers how much public support is behind expanding Yosemite's legacy. Already, our members and activists have submitted more than 10,000 comments to their congressional representatives, calling on them to make this dream come true for Yosemite. Environment California worked with lawmakers to pass a resolution in the state Legislature that calls on California's congressional delegation to expand Yosemite this year.

In March, we met with our representatives in Congress and urged them to support the Yosemite expansion. Then, we delivered a photo album to Sen. Feinstein, which was filled with more than 100 photos of our members in support of the effort. In addition, our campaign has received endorsements from major figures in the preservation world, including Betty White—famous actress and honorary National Forest Ranger—and Robert Hanna, the great-great-grandson of John Muir.

Willing landholders have been trying to make these 1,600 acres a part of Yosemite National Park for years, and now, Environment California has joined them in calling on Congress to finally

act in Yosemite's interest. The borders of a national park can only be altered by an act of Congress, and with the support of Environment California's members and activists, we have a better shot than ever before at expanding the park's borders.

Just in time for park's 150th

The 150-year anniversary of the Yosemite Land Grant—signed by Abraham Lincoln—is next year, and this would be the perfect birthday present.

By adding these 1,600 acres of forest to the national park, we would be expanding it to encompass land that was once stripped away from Yosemite and given to loggers and the railroad industry. This is land that John Muir originally intended to be included in Yosemite National Park.

Environment California applauded Sen. Feinstein in April for introducing a Yosemite expansion bill. Now, Environment California is building more public support in order to influence lawmakers in Congress to pass this bill and expand the national park we love.



Robert Hanna

The legacy

Preservation Associate Mac Farrell (left) met with John Muir's great-great-grandson to discuss plans to expand Yosemite National Park.

Read more about our work to expand Yosemite on our website: www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org.



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Protecting the Pacific Crest Trail

More than 200 miles of California's most amazing trail could be developed, but our senators have a unique opportunity to protect the trail.

Each year, Congress raids the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the program dedicated to protecting treasured places like the Pacific Crest Trail, and uses the money for other purposes.

Environment California is bringing citizens together to convince our lawmakers to make protecting the Pacific Crest Trail a top priority in Congress, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

As Californians, our love of the outdoors is connected to the many awe-inspiring places across the state. The Pacific Crest Trail is a unique, truly Californian landmark: Crossing the Mojave Desert, traversing Giant Sequoia groves, passing through Yosemite National Park and beyond, the Pacific Crest Trail stretches from Mexico to Canada, intersecting some of the most diverse ecosystems in California.

For the hundreds of hikers who spend either the day or several months traveling the trail, there is no other trail like it on earth. The trail runs through 25 national forests and seven national parks. At Forester Pass in the Sierra Nevada, hikers are more than 13,000 feet above sea level. And the trail crosses the longest wilderness, the deepest canyon, and the highest mountain in the lower 48 states.

Learn more and take action at: www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org.

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Summer Report

VOLUME 11 | NO. 1 | 2013



Environment California

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment California. We focus exclusively on protecting California's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

San Diego or Sacramento next to ban bags?

Just a few years ago, plastic bag bans were unheard of, yet each year, wind and rain carried innumerable bags out to sea through our rivers. Thousands of animals were ensnared by plastic bags or starved to death after mistaking them for food.

But together, we took a stand to keep plastic out of the Pacific Ocean. City by city, we made change. Now, from Ukiah to San Francisco to Huntington Beach, more than 70 California local governments have enacted plastic bag bans.

Already, one in five Californians is covered, keeping countless bags out of the ocean. And once other bans we've won take effect, a third of all Californians will have said "yes" to protecting the ocean from plastic garbage.

But there's still more to do. Cities like Chico, Sacramento and Santa Barbara are working to pass plastic bag bans. With you by our side, we'll stand up to the plastics industry and make sure that these cities succeed. And we'll do everything we can this summer to get an ordinance started in San Diego, home to 1.3 million Californians and 70 miles of coastline.

Together, we've built an amazing movement to protect the Pacific. Let's keep going.



Tom Myers Photography

▲ Oceans Advocate Nathan Weaver calls for a bag ban in Sacramento.

Read more about our work to ban the bag on our website: www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org.