



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

June 10, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin
 Councilmember Susan Wengraf

Subject: Support Alameda County Residents' Fracking Ban Petition

RECOMMENDATION

Support Alameda County residents' petition to Ban Fracking and Other Extreme Oil Extraction Methods within the county.

BACKGROUND

Fracking operations cause residents to suffer from constant noise, dangerous air and water pollution, truck traffic, toxic spills, increased crime, and falling property values. For these reasons, the residents of Alameda County have begun a petition to ban hydraulic fracturing operations in their county.

The City of Berkeley fully supports the residents of Alameda County in their petition. This petition and its goal to ban fracking in order to protect local communities and their residents is in line with past decisions made by the Berkeley City Council.

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/ban-fracking-and-other?source=s.fwd&r_by=10606107

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Banning fracking is beneficial for the environment as hydraulic fracturing produces substantial amounts of toxic waste, causes accidents, methane leaks and spills, and emits many hazardous pollutants into the air and surrounding water.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal.

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENT

1. Petition to Ban Fracking and Other Extreme Oil Extraction Methods in Alameda County.

BAN FRACKING AND OTHER EXTREME OIL EXTRACTION METHODS IN ALAMEDA COUNTY - Petition by Frank Burton

PETITION TO ALAAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Extreme oil extraction methods, including fracking and acidization (collectively called "fracking" in this petition), are a dangerous threat to our water, air, jobs, and health, and add to global warming.

Why is this important?

Fracking (short for "hydraulic fracturing") is an extreme method of oil and gas extraction that involves high-pressure injection of vast quantities of fresh water, sand and toxic chemicals deep underground – endangering Californians' health, safety, and jobs.

Big Oil has plans to massively expand fracking in California, especially targeting the Monterey Shale formation, which lies under much of California including parts of Alameda County. Did you know there are already several oil wells in Alameda County?

In the last ten years, fracking has expanded rapidly in states like Pennsylvania, North Dakota, Texas, and Colorado. Residents living near fracking operations suffer from constant noise and light pollution, endless diesel truck traffic, toxic spills, contaminated water, dangerous air pollution, increased crime, and falling property values.

If Big Oil gets its way, it could spell ruin for California farmers and vineyards. Appallingly, even in severe drought, Big Oil regularly outbids farmers for water rights, utilizing large quantities of precious fresh water and directly jeopardizing farmers' livelihoods. And the toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and radioactivity associated with fracking operations often contaminate the soil, air, and water, kill wildlife and livestock, and trigger earthquakes.

Despite the clear potential risks posed to Californians by Big Oil's plans to frack our state, legislation last year that would have placed a moratorium on fracking was subverted into a law to weakly regulate it, and Governor Brown appears eager to encourage the expansion of these toxic processes.

That's why we have to take matters into our own hands and ban fracking at the local level. Cities and counties in California have broad authority to ban fracking, and it's up to us to pressure our elected officials to step in where the state government has failed to protect us.

Local bans on fracking may also be one of the most effective strategies for winning change at the state level. A growing wave of cities and counties in California is rejecting fracking, which puts increased pressure on Sacramento to ban fracking in all of California.

Hundreds of communities across the country, from New York and New Mexico to Pennsylvania, Ohio and Colorado, have successfully passed local bans or moratoriums on fracking in order to protect their homes and pressure state officials to act.

Now it's up to us: Even if you have signed other anti-fracking petitions, please sign this petition to ban fracking in Alameda County.