



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 24, 2019

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Cheryl Davila, Councilmember Kate Harrison and Councilmember Sophie Hahn

**Subject:** Letter in Support of AB 342, Prohibiting the Use of Public Lands for Oil and Gas Production.

RECOMMENDATION

Send a Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom In Support of AB 342 by State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, prohibiting the State of California from authorizing new construction of oil and gas infrastructure upon public lands and direct the city clerk or designee to send a letter to our state representatives.

BACKGROUND

The United States Bureau of Land Management is currently proposing to open more than a million acres of public land and mineral estate in California to oil drilling and fracking, ending the federal moratorium on leasing California's federal public lands to oil companies that has been in effect for over 5 years. In 2018, the United States Bureau of Land Management authorized the drilling of a new well and the installation of a new pipeline inside the boundaries of the Carrizo Plain National Monument near San Luis Obispo. These are only a few examples of the current Administration's policy to open federal land to oil and gas exploration and production, at the expense of our environment, health, and wildlife.

Opening our beautiful and precious public lands to oil production would put our landscapes at risk. It threatens not only our public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, but risks polluting the air and water of other federal and state lands in the region, from the Sequoia National Forest to the Los Padres National Forest and California's beautiful coastlines.

The state of California has jurisdiction over the use of state lands, including leasing authority in those areas. If an oil or gas lease is authorized on federal land, the state should not facilitate fossil fuel production with additional supporting infrastructure on state lands.

AB 342 prohibits any state agency, department, commission, or local trustee, with leasing authority over public lands, from entering into any new lease authorizing the construction of oil- and gas-related infrastructure upon state lands to support oil and gas production on federally protected lands.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There is no fiscal impact to send a letter.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Should AB 342 be signed into law by the Governor, it will protect our communities, health, wildlife and climate by prohibiting the state to authorize new construction of oil and gas infrastructure on public lands.

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter.
2. Link to Text of AB 342:  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB342](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB342)

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Date: September 24, 2019

Re: AB 342 Public lands: leasing: oil and gas: prohibition – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Berkeley supports for AB 342 by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, which would prohibit the state from authorizing new construction of oil and gas related infrastructure upon public lands to support new production of oil and natural gas from protected federal lands.

The US Bureau of Land Management is currently proposing to open more than a million acres of public land and mineral estate in California to oil drilling and fracking, ending the federal moratorium on leasing California's federal public lands to oil companies that has been in effect for over 5 years. In 2018, the Bureau of Land Management authorized the drilling of a new well and the installation of a new pipeline inside the boundaries of the Carrizo Plain National Monument near San Luis Obispo. These are only a few examples of the current administration's policy to open federal land to oil and gas exploration and production, at the expense of the nation's environment, health, and wildlife.

Opening California's beautiful and precious public lands to oil production would put the state's most iconic landscapes at risk. It threatens not only lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, but risks polluting the air and water of other federal and private lands in the region, including the Sequoia National Forest, Los Padres National Forest and California's beautiful coastlines.

While federal land use determinations are largely outside of state control, California does have jurisdiction over the use of state lands, including leasing authority in those areas. If an oil or gas lease is authorized on federal land, the state should not facilitate fossil fuel production with additional supporting infrastructure on state lands.

AB 342 prohibits any state agency, department, commission, or local trustee, with leasing authority over public lands, from entering into any new lease authorizing the construction of oil- and gas-related infrastructure upon state lands to support oil and gas production on federally protected lands.

We respectfully ask that you will sign AB 342 into law when it comes before your desk for the protection of California's iconic public lands, our communities, health, wildlife and climate.

Best regards,

The Berkeley City Council

cc: Senator Nancy Skinner  
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

