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December 12, 2013

California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

**Re: Hydraulic Fracturing of Oil and Gas Wells in Waters Offshore California**

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the more than 150 undersigned organizations and our members, we urge you to protect California's coastal waters and marine life from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, of offshore oil and gas wells. Fracking is happening in state and federal waters off California's coast. This practice has received little or no oversight despite the hazardous risks it poses. The Coastal Commission has a broad mandate to protect our coastal resources, including wildlife, marine fisheries, and the natural environment. We urge the Commission to exercise its authority to halt offshore fracking.

Fracking and other unconventional production techniques, such as fracture acidizing, pose an urgent threat to water quality, marine life, and coastal communities. Modern fracking uses high pressure to inject toxic chemicals and water underground to force oil or gas out of shale formations. Fracking produces large volumes of waste contaminated with chemicals that are known carcinogens or pose other health and ecological hazards.

Despite the long-standing moratorium on offshore oil leases off the California coast, oil and gas companies have begun to use risky, new fracking techniques to get more oil out of those old leases. Fracking compounds the risks of conventional drilling by intensifying the activities, burdening aging infrastructure, and extending the life of oil production. Consequently, the risks of oil spills, vessel traffic, discharges of toxic waste, and air pollution are substantially increased, as are the impacts on the coastal environment.

Fracking poses an unreasonable risk to endangered whales and the scores of wildlife in the Santa Barbara Channel; and has the potential to severely impact newly established Marine Protected Areas. It also degrades the natural coastal environment enjoyed by Californians. Because fracking violates the central tenets of the Coastal Act, the Commission must assert its authority to regulate oil and gas development in the coastal zone and stop the risky practice. It must also ensure that oil drilling activities in federal waters are consistent with protecting coastal resources.

In summary, bold leadership is needed to immediately protect California's beaches, waters and wildlife from offshore fracking. The Commission should use its authority to prevent offshore fracking that threatens our coast.

Sincerely,

350.org	Central California Environmental Justice Network
350 Bay Area	CFROG: Citizens for Responsible Oil & Gas
350Marin	Chesapeake Climate Action Network
350 Sacramento	Christians Caring for Creation
350 San Diego	Citizens Action Network: Frack-Free Butte County
350 Santa Barbara	Citizens Climate Lobby Santa Clarita Chapter
350 Silicon Valley	Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
AFSCME Chapter 57 Retirees	Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Alameda County Green Party	Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Alameda Creek Alliance	Citizens' League for Environmental Protection Now
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council	CLEAN ~ Coastal Law Enforcement Action Network
American Littoral Society	Clean Water Action
Baldwin Hills Oil Watch	CNT Institute
Ballona Creek Renaissance	Coalition for Grassroots Progress
Ballona Institute	Communities for Sustainable Monterey County
Ban Fracking in California Campaign	Community Planet
Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters	Conscious Children's Clothes
Bay Localize	Conservation Law Foundation
Big Sur Communications	CourageCampaign.org
Blue Frontier	CREDO
Breast Cancer Action	Decide Locally Carpinteria
Burbank Green Alliance	Eagle Peak Wildlife Care
CA League of United Latin American Citizens	Earth Passages
California Coastal Protection Network	Earthworks
California Interfaith Power & Light	Ecological Farming Association
Californians for Western Wilderness	Elder Creek Center for the Land
Camp Nast Associations, LLC	
Carpinteria Valley Association	
Center for Biological Diversity	

Emergency Solar	Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Endangered Species Coalition	Greenpeace
Environment California	Hands Across the Sand/Land
Environmental Action	Institute for Fisheries Resources
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin	Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Environmental Defense Center	KyotoUSA
Environmental Protection Information Center	Label GMOs.org
Environmental Working Group	Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz
Farmworker Association of Florida	Mainstreet Moms
Flycasters, Inc. of San Jose	Marinites Against Fracking
Food & Water Watch	Mission Blue
Food Empowerment Project	Mission Peak Fly Anglers of Fremont
Fossil Free UCLA	MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
Fresnans Against Fracking	Monterey Bay Whale Watch
Friends of the Earth	Monterey County Against Fracking
Friends of the Pogonip	Movement Generation
Garaventa Consulting	Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.	Natural Resources Defense Council
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives - GAIA	New Moon Trading Co.
Global Exchange	North Orange County group, Citizens Climate Lobby
Grace Community Church of Apple Valley	Northcoast Environmental Center
Grassroots Coalition	OC South Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby
Gray Panthers of the East Bay	Ocean Conservation Research
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association	Ocean Protection Coalition
Great Minds LLC	Oil Change International
Green Party of Monmouth County	Outer Space Cow
Green Party of Monterey County	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Green Party of San Diego	

Pelican Media  
Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica Mountains  
Public Banking Institute  
Public Citizen  
Raritan Riverkeeper  
Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment  
San Diego County Green Party  
San Francisco Naturalist Society  
San Francisco Baykeeper  
San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper  
Santa Barbara "Frack Back" to Save the Central Coast  
Santa Barbara City College Student Sustainability Coalition  
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
Save Our Shores  
SaveWithSunlight, Inc.  
Shark River Clean-up Coalition  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club California  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter  
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter  
SoCal Climate Action Coalition 350  
SocioEnergetics Foundation  
Solar Wind Works  
Sonoma County Conservation Action  
Southwest Council International Federation of Fly Fishers  
SPAN  
Spottswode Winery

Stewards of the Earth  
Street Level Health Project  
Surfrider Foundation  
Tar Sands Action SoCal  
The Canvas Works  
The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment  
The Green Democrats of Sacramento  
The Little Farm  
The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment  
The Shame Free Zone  
The Student Food Collective at UCLA  
The Wildlands Conservancy  
Tidstrand Media LLC  
Topanga Peace Alliance  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
WATERSPIRIT  
Wetlands Defense Fund  
Wild Equity Institute  
Wild Heritage Planners  
WILD Coast  
WildEarth Guardians  
Women Occupy San Diego