



PO Box 3608
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-3608
mothersforpeace.org

August 11.2014

TO: San Luis Obispo County Health Commission

FROM: Simone Malbueef
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jane Swanson
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Request for future agenda item

We are here this evening to call to the attention of this Commission the need for a credible health study of the current residents of San Luis Obispo County relative to the health status of the county in pre-Diablo Canyon operations decades. We request that this be included as an agenda item in the near future.

There are two reasons why we need this study:

The citizens of SLO deserve to know what, if any, impact the presence of a nuclear facility has on their health.

The results of the only study done to date were contested as "fundamentally flawed". The Health Commission has an

opportunity to initiate a new study, using methods in which our County Health Department has confidence.

The Mothers For Peace recently informally polled public opinion for support of a new health study at two events in SLO county: The Day of the Child in Mission Plaza on April 12 and Earth Day at El Chorro Regional Park on April 24, 2014. So far, we have collected 96 signatures supporting this petition. It is clear there is public interest and concern for a health status study to be done.

We assume this Commission is aware of the "Report on Health Status of Residents ... living near the Diablo Canyon nuclear reactors" commissioned by the World Business Academy of Santa Barbara and completed in March of 2014. We are not here to evaluate that specific report or its methodologies, which have been criticized by the County Health Dept. But we do want to point out that during the 30 years of Diablo Operations, there has been a total lack of health studies on the plant's possible effects on residents until this study commissioned by the Academy.

The Mothers for Peace asked the county and the state of California for a baseline health study to be done in 1975, so that such comparisons could be made for pre and post operations of DC. Thirty years later, that need has still not been met.

We are asking that the Commission work with the County and State Health Departments to conduct a credible study of the current health status of County residents compared to that previous to operation of Diablo Canyon. This study should include but not be limited to: increases in various rates of disease and death in San Luis Obispo county as compared to those throughout the state of California; increases in infant mortality, child adolescent cancer mortality, cancer incidences for all ages, especially thyroid, female breast cancer, melanoma skin cancer.

We request that the proposal for such a health study be placed on a future Health Commission agenda.

Thank you for the opportunity to call this matter to your attention during this public comment time.

SLO County Health Commission, August 11, 2014

My name is Mary Eister. I am a 28 year resident of Arroyo Grande. Much of what I have to say this evening is based on written interviews and video footage of lectures given by Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, Professor of Engineering at Cornell University.* Having been an industry insider, he is an adamant opponent to current practices of hydraulic fracturing but refuses to indict his opponents on any but rigorous scientific grounds.

There are numerous health related issues that surround fracking. This evening I have chosen to discuss one topic, Backflow and Waste Water.

So what are backflow and waste water and what do they have to do with health? Backflow is the fluid which is initially injected into the wells and rises back to the surface once the pressure of fracking is released. The backflow will be highly saline, and contain some heavy metals, non-people friendly additives and naturally occurring radioactive materials which have been brought up from as deep as 5000 feet. Industry spokespeople say that from 10-50% of the injected fluid flows back right away.

The remaining fluids may be called waste water. While this fluid is significantly diluted, it still contains the same contaminants as the backflow. Most of this fluid comes up eventually over the life of the well, perhaps over 30-50 years.

What is significant, according to Dr. Ingraffea, is that the determination of when it is called backflow and when it is designated as wastewater is entirely at the discretion of the oil company doing the fracking.

With the designation of the fluid as wastewater, regulatory procedures are put into place which are different from those that are in effect when it is called backflow. There is no longer the requirement to test content and it can be sprayed on roads or sent to a city treatment plant which doesn't test for heavy metals or radioactive materials. Though these contaminants have been diluted, they are still present, and they are put into the environment.

Surely the oil companies are comprised of honorable men and women who don't wish to fill the environment with poison, but if their measure of whether or not they're doing the right thing consists of their assessment of whether they are following all government regulations, and if the regulatory regime is not adequate to address health hazards that are easily describable -and I'm sure you'd agree that spreading poison on roadways and/or dumping it into municipal sewage treatment plants that don't monitor for these poisons, is an easily describable health hazard- prudence would dictate that fracking at least be delayed until such the oil industry can prove unequivocally and in a thoroughly transparent way, that their practices are not threatening the public health by causing harm to the environment. For this reason, I urge you to recommend to the County Board of Supervisors to ban fracking in the interest of protecting the public health.

Mary Eister

[REDACTED] Arroyo Grande

[REDACTED]

To the City Council of Paso Robles, Ca.
Cc: The San Luis Obispo County Health Commission

May 11, 2014
Aug. 11, 2014

Dear Sirs,

Ground water contamination and air pollution do not recognize city limits so as a resident of the county I am writing to the nearest municipality to express my concerns regarding the hazards of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). It is my intention to inform the city council of facts they might not be aware of and to encourage them to support a countywide ban on fracking as it is in the interests of the citizens of Paso Robles as well as the citizens of the county (suggested letter attached).

The concept of banning fracking is not new and Paso Robles need not be concerned that they might be considered a trend-setter if they add their voice. France and Bulgaria, countries with the largest shale-gas reserves in Europe, have already banned fracking. The city council of Los Angeles voted 10-0 to ban fracking. Locally, the cities of Arroyo Grande and San Luis Obispo have sent letters to the county board of supervisors urging them to ban fracking. I am asking the city council of Paso Robles to do the same.

These municipalities did not make these decisions lightly. They made them because of the facts. I list a few below.

In a peer-reviewed paper titled:

“Estrogen and Androgen Receptor Activities of Hydraulic Fracturing Chemicals and Surface and Ground Water in a Drilling-Dense Region”

Published in the journal, “Endocrinology” (March, 2014)

Christopher D. Kassotis, et. al. studied surface and ground water in an area dense with drilling and found contamination in most samples as compared to control water samples taken from an area with limited drilling. 89% of the samples from the drilling dense area exhibited “estrogenic activity” including elevated levels of endocrine disruptive chemicals compared to control samples. Their conclusion:

“Our data suggest that natural gas drilling operations may result in elevated endocrine-disrupting chemical activity in surface and ground water.”

These chemicals have been linked to infertility, birth defects, and cancer.

The natural gas industry would have us believe that natural gas is much cleaner than coal or oil. But natural gas wells leak methane into the atmosphere.

Professor Anthony Ingraffea (professor of engineering and faculty fellow at Cornell) states:

“NASA climate scientist Drew Shindell’s work, published in the prestigious journal, *Science*, shows that methane – natural gas – is 105 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a global warming contributor...

Unfortunately, unconventional gas drilling techniques actually leak more methane than conventional ones.

Leaks happen routinely during regular drilling, fracking and flowback operations, liquid unloading, processing, and along pipelines and at storage facilities.

The rate of leakage is anywhere from 3.6 per cent to 7.9 per cent of the lifetime of production of a shale gas well, which means from three to 200 per cent greater leakage rate than from conventional gas wells.

When it comes to global warming potential, production of gas from shale creates effects greater than that of coal or oil. “ [Emphasis mine]

And this does not even consider the release of carbon dioxide from these ancient reserves when they are burned.

Professor Ingraffea also cites the work done by Watson and Bachu, in a Society of Petroleum Engineers paper (2009) in which 352,000 Canadian wells were studied. In this paper *the industry’s own researchers* found that 12% of the newer wells leaked, considerably *higher* than older wells. Even the guarded language of the head of the EPA cannot hide the sobering truth when Lisa Jackson admits, “It is possible that fracking in one bearing zone may have impacted nearby areas that may contain some groundwater.”

So when a Paso Robles City Councilman states:

“Thus far we have seen nothing that wasn’t favorable to careful, environmentally sensitive natural gas extraction...”

I can only assume that he is not familiar with the evidence cited above (and there is much more). The evidence that fracking not only can, but does, pollute our water supply and our air cannot honestly be in dispute. The only question is, “will we tolerate it?” As a concerned citizen I hope that the thoughtful politician will have the courage to stand up and say, “no, our water and our air are too precious to allow these sorts of activities to poison them.” I urge the City of Paso Robles to join the cities of San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande in supporting a countywide ban on fracking.

Respectfully,

Mark Phillips
Whitley Gardens



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www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

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August 7, 2014

Via FAX

To: Lynn Enns, Chair, San Luis Obispo County Health Commission

From: Andrew Christie, Director, Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

Re: Fracking and human health

Dear Chairwoman Enns,

The Sierra Club is submitting the attached information as a public comment for your meeting of August 11. Please distribute to the Commissioners and include in the record of the meeting.

Thank you,

Andrew Christie

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Fracking's Human Health Impacts

Fracking for oil and gas is pumping and dumping contaminated water, mud, toxic chemicals and air pollution into our communities and environment. While human health impacts have gone largely unmeasured in California, active fracking in other states shows that fracking is a human health hazard for both oil and gas field workers and people living near oil and gas fields.

Overview

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the process of injecting large quantities of water, toxic chemicals, sand and other materials ("proppant") under high pressure into the ground to break up and dissolve rock and soil to extract oil and gas. Increasingly, dangerous concentrations of acids, including hydrofluoric acid, are used in a process called "acid well stimulation" that is essentially a variation on fracking.

Both processes—fracking and well stimulation—have been largely unregulated in California until very recently. Moreover, the health and environmental impacts here have not been routinely catalogued and reported. However, enough reporting exists from California and other states where fracking is also occurring to indicate that fracking's health impacts can be and have been disturbing and profound.

Water and Fracking Fluids

Oil companies in North Dakota reported more than 1,000 accidental releases of oil, drilling wastewater or other fluids in 2011, according to data obtained by ProPublica. Many more illicit releases went unreported, state regulators acknowledge. In several cases, spills turned out to be far larger than initially thought, totaling millions of gallons. Releases of brine, which is often laced with carcinogenic chemicals and heavy metals, have wiped out aquatic life in streams and wetlands and sterilized farmland. The effects on land can last for years, or even decadesⁱ

Fracking routinely employs numerous toxic chemicals, including methanol, benzene, naphthalene and trimethylbenzene. It can also expose people to harm from lead, arsenic and radioactivity that are brought back to the surface with fracking flowback fluid.ⁱⁱ

Cathy Behr, an emergency room nurse at a Colorado medical center spent ten minutes with gas field worker Clinton Marshall, who arrived complaining of nausea and headaches after a "fracturing fluid" spill. The fumes were so overpowering the emergency room was evacuated. A few days later Behr was diagnosed with multiple organ failure, including liver failure, respiratory distress and erratic blood counts. She was admitted to the ICU with the presumptive diagnosis of poisoning from an unknown chemical. The chemical was and is still considered to be a proprietary formula by the producer, Halliburton, a gas industry leader. It was later revealed to be a product with the trade name, Zetaflow.ⁱⁱⁱ

Over five decades of oil drilling in Poplar Montana have contaminated Poplar's drinking water to the point that, "Between 1999 and 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency issued five emergency orders to three oil companies, forcing them to, among other things, build a drinking

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(916) 557-1100 • Fax (916) 557-9669 • www.SierraClubCalifornia.org

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water pipeline to certain residences and deliver bottled water to others.”^{iv}

In California, wastewater from oil and gas development has already resulted in contaminated groundwater through surface storage leakage. In 2008, a Kern County farmer was awarded \$8.5 million in compensatory damages for groundwater contamination from oil industry wastewater stored in open pits.^v

Toxics and Air Quality

Air sampling near fracking sites in Texas and California has detected concentrations of hazardous air pollutants high enough to make people sick. Smog and soot pollution from heavy-duty trucks and other equipment also contribute to local and regional air pollution problems.^{vi}

Vintage Production, a subsidiary of oil giant Occidental, revealed that the company fracked 36 wells around Shafter, CA, from the beginning of 2011 to April of 2013, and a total of 85 wells in Kern County. The company’s arrays of pipes and tanks and trucks are punctuated with a tower that has been flaring gas since 2011, sometimes 24 hours a day. A study of gas flaring by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District shows that gas flaring can emit numerous pollutants such as benzene, formaldehyde, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs, including naphthalene), acetaldehyde, acrolein, propylene, toluene, xylenes, ethyl benzene and hexane.

“Gas field ozone has created a previously unrecognized air pollution problem in rural areas, similar to that found in large urban areas,” according to a 2011 study published in the journal *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*^{vii}. In 2012, documents submitted to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District show that Vintage’s gas flare in 2012 emitted 68 pounds of nitrogen oxides and 88 pounds of volatile organic compounds.^{viii}

The 12 most commonly used air toxics in unconventional oil development in the Los Angeles basin are (1) Crystalline Silica, (2) Methanol, (3) Hydrochloric Acid, (4) Hydrofluoric Acid, (5) 2-Butoxy Ethanol (6) Ethyl Glycol (Monobutyl Ether) (7) Xylene (8) Amorphous Silica Fume (9) Aluminum Oxide (10) Acrylic Polymer(Acid) (11) Acetophenone (12) Ethylbenzene These disclosures demonstrate that air toxics — chemicals considered among the most dangerous air pollutants because they can cause illness and death — are being used routinely in extreme energy-recovery techniques in Southern California.^{ix}

ⁱ <http://www.propublica.org/article/the-other-fracking-north-dakotas-oil-boom-brings-damage-along-with-prosper>

ⁱⁱ http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/california_fracking/faq.html

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/environmental-health-policy-institute/responses/the-big-secret-fracking-fluids.html>

^{iv} <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/05/26/fracking-bakken-will-oil-boom-reach-montanos-in-poverished-fort-peck-tribes-149535>

^v Wheeler Institute for Water Law & Policy Center for Law, Energy and the Environment

^{vi} <http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/programs/cae/no-fracking-california>

^{vii} Theo Colburn, Carol Kwiatkowski, Kim Schultz & Mary Bachran (2011) natural gas operations from public health perspective, *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal*, 17:5, 1039-1056

^{viii} <http://www.alternet.org/fracking/are-we-trading-our-health-oil-new-fracking-induced-california-gold-rush-slideshow?paging=off>

^{ix} http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/california_fracking/pdfs/LA_Air_Toxics_Report.pdf

August 5, 2014

Health Commission Chair

Subject: Fracking & Health

Dear Chairperson,

As a resident of the central coast, I'm deeply concerned with fracking. Just yesterday there was an article in the local paper about an oilfield that was finally shut down last year in South Los Angeles (Allenco Energy). The residents of University Park had been complaining for years of nosebleeds, headaches, nausea, and sleep disruption due to gas-like odors from the facility. Is this just another example of what happens when people get sick from fracking? Do they have to suffer for years to get the EPA to shut them down. These people had to.

As a 71 year old woman, I have seen first-hand where the general public has been fed malarkey from "big" industry. For example, the tobacco industry, and the safety of smoking cigarettes. There were ads everywhere with actors dressed up like doctors, saying that cigarette smoking was safe. For decades, people smoked everywhere including on airplanes, in doctor's offices, in college classrooms, and even in the workplace. How many years, not to mention hours of litigation, did it take to get warnings of the danger of smoking on cigarette packages. Furthermore, how many people have had to suffer and are still suffering, many from second-hand smoke who were children during that era, from lung disease.

I simply say, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Our natural beauty with clean healthy air on the central coast does not have to become another disease ridden and polluted community.

sent by T. Blake



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: No Fracking

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/06/2014 02:33 PM
Subject: No Fracking

Our water is a very crucial issue right now and always will be... far into our future.
Water sustains life...oil does not.

Find another way...

Diana Duncan

Sent on the new Sprint Network from my Samsung Galaxy S@4.

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To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Fracking

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/06/2014 09:07 PM
Subject: Fracking

As a physician, I am very concerned about the multiple negative impacts on the health of our community which could result from fracking.

Paul Georghiou MD
[REDACTED]



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Public Comment on Fracking/County Health Commission

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/06/2014 11:41 PM
Subject: Public Comment on Fracking/County Health Commission

Dear SLO County Health Commission Board and staff,

I cannot attend Monday's meeting but would like to share my concerns on the health issues related to oil and gas extraction through (even state-of-the-art) Fracking practices proposed for our future destiny.

Because of the high potential for water and air contamination, careful control and consideration of future extraction methods in our County deserves serious review and thought.

Our dwindling water supplies alone would call for a prohibition on any activity that would compromise quantity and quality of existing supplies in our aquifers. Fracturing the ground with dozens of toxic ingredients requires huge amounts of water and little of it recycles well. Additionally, the possibility of contaminating water supplies through the Fracturing/Drilling procedures is quite high...

Air quality is affected by increased high emissions from equipment and activity. Currently we struggle to maintain clean air. Asthma is at an all time high as are other respiratory conditions.

Lastly, increased seismic events are directly connected to the Fracking activity in dozens of states now. How healthy can it be to increase the potential for an earthquake with an aging nuclear plant located on several major fault lines?

Please consider supporting a ban on Fracking in SLO County due to the basic public health and safety concerns. It's better to be safe than sorry.

SLO County can survive without accepting industry pollution. Keep us green, protect our already compromised resources!

Thankyou,

Linde Owen

Los Osos.

This e-mail, and any files transmitted with it, are intended only for the person or entity to which it is

1 of 1



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: August 11, 2014 meeting on fracking

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/07/2014 01:25 PM
Subject: August 11, 2014 meeting on fracking

Hello,
I am concerned with the prospect of fracking in our county when we are in a drought situation and any extra use of water is not advisable. Also I am concerned with the addition of chemicals into the earth when we do not know the final effect on living organisms. Please do not allow fracking in our county.
Thank you,
Marie Smith, L.O.



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Fracking in SLO County

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/07/2014 01:34 PM
Subject: Fracking in SLO County

Please add my name in opposition to fracking or further drilling in our beautiful county.

Alan Boehmer
[REDACTED]
Los Osos



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Fracking (or lack of same)

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/07/2014 02:41 PM
Subject: Fracking (or lack of same)

I have been told that next Monday, August 11, the Board of Supervisors and the County Health Commission will hear public comment on fracking, and will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the wisdom of fracking in our county. I won't be able to attend, and so would like to submit my thoughts in this email.

It is my vehement opinion that there is no wisdom to fracking anywhere. I'm sure I don't have to tell you the disastrous water problems that have plagued those near fracking wells. Plus there seems to be an increase in earthquake activity caused, so this should be kept as far from a nuclear power plant as possible.

I could go on and on, but here's the bottom line: Would you want one of these wells in/near your backyard? Of course not. Then we can't put them near anyone's backyard.

Please act now to save our county from this reckless and destructive practice.

Thank you,
-Catherine Ryan Hyde

[REDACTED]
Cambria, CA 93428



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Fracking.

From: [REDACTED]
To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 08/07/2014 03:30 PM
Subject: Fracking.

I am unable to attend the meeting of the County Health Commission, so I am taking this way of expressing my opposition to fracking. I believe it is unsafe and unwise for many reasons. We should not pander to the oil companies. JoAnne F. Milburn, Los Osos



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: fracking

From: [REDACTED]
To: "jwhite@co.slo.ca.us" <jwhite@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/08/2014 05:55 AM
Subject: fracking

Can't be there Monday.

Wanted to let you know my whole family and most friends of which there is a lot of us in this town all agree with me that fracking is not a good idea. There are dozens of us who I can safely speak for. It is not wise to be FRACKING anywhere in the world. The environmental hazards are demonstrated. The proof is there. The time is NOW for alternatives and a FREEDOM FROM CORPORATE oppression. CORPORATE control of our resources is DESTROYING us. The people have spoken. Listen and be a part of the POSITIVE direction. Don't fall for the hype. Thank you.

I am also the owner of Matt Clark Tile & Stone. We are a small business. Locally owned and operated.

Katie Franklin

[REDACTED] Los Osos



To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Fracking

From: [REDACTED]
To: <jwhite@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/08/2014 02:18 PM
Subject: Fracking

[REDACTED]
San Luis Obispo County Health Commission

Dear Chairman [REDACTED]

I am writing to strongly urge you to support a ban on fracking in our County.

First of all, we in California do not have enough water to satisfy the needs of our residents, farmers, and businesses let alone have millions of extra gallons to use for fracking, a practice that has high potential for harmful health effects.

Gases that escape during drilling contribute to global warming and the fracking fluids and their toxic chemicals can pollute our aquifers and soil.

Why would we want to subject ourselves and our planet to this kind of unhealthy pollution? Why would we want to contribute more green house gases to our atmosphere when we are already over the limit that is considered balanced for life on our planet?

The best place for the gas and oil that is to be extracted by fracking, is in the ground, undisturbed. We don't need to burn dirty fossil fuels for energy in the 21st century. We have clean, safe, renewable sources of energy now. And they don't waste our precious water.

Thank you for your consideration of this message..

Sincerely,

Vicki Bookless
San Luis Obispo, CA
[REDACTED]

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Re: Fracking and Health
JEANNE BLACKWELL

to:
jwhite

08/09/2014 12:06 AM

Hide Details

[REDACTED]

To: jwhite@co.slo.ca.us,

Thank you Chair Enns for assuring us that our comments will be taken into consideration by the commission.

I would also hope that the commission will take a compassionate approach and acknowledge the documented cases and experiences of people just like us in other communities across the U.S. who are desperately trying to cope with all the health issues associated with fracking that they were never warned about.

Thank you,
Jeanne

Jeanne Blackwell

[REDACTED]
SLO Clean Water Action.org

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." Buckminster Fuller

1 of 1

On Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 3:23 PM, <jwhite@co.slo.ca.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Blackwell,

The SLO County Health Commission had hoped to have an educational program on the subject of fracking, however, locating experts in the field to come here to speak has proven more of a challenge than anticipated.

Chair Enns just wanted to clarify that, as yet, they do not have an agenda item scheduled on this topic.

But comments are welcome either at the meeting during public comment or in writing and will be reviewed by the commission.