



September 23, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Wade Crowfoot  
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sarah Swig  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Senior Advisor on Climate  
1021 O St., Suite 9000  
Sacramento, California 95814

Douglas Ito  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor  
California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)  
715 P Street, 18th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Defend California from Trump's Attacks On Our Health and Environment**

Dear Governor Newsom, Secretary Crowfoot, Deputy Cabinet Secretary Swig, and Supervisor Ito,

We write as 75 organizations representing millions of Californians to sound an alarm: the Trump administration has launched an all-out attack on our state's health and environment by pushing for more federally supported drilling in the state. The administration is hellbent on giving oil companies free rein in California, going so far as to attack California's landmark community protection laws such as SB 1137 and the state fracking ban. We need the Newsom administration to cement a robust defense of our hardwon protections against oil and gas pollution before the end of its term.

**The Trump administration's attacks are increasing.**

Senate President pro Tempore Limón and Senator Gonzalez authored SB 1137 together, to do something simple and overdue: keep new oil and gas wells at least 3,200 feet from the homes, schools, daycares, and hospitals where Californians live, learn, and heal. Since it took effect,

SB 1137 has stood as one of the most consequential environmental health protections in the nation. It should not be treated as optional by anyone — including the federal government.

The U.S. Department of Justice, representing the federal Bureau of Land Management, sued California to try to invalidate SB 1137's health protection zones. On March 31, 2026, a federal court denied the administration's request to pause the law while that case proceeded, finding the federal government "has not demonstrated that it is likely to succeed" on the merits. That ruling was a real and important win, but the underlying lawsuit continues, and the Trump administration has not backed down.

This June, the Bureau of Land Management opened more than a million acres of California public land to new oil and gas leasing, including fracking, with no meaningful accounting for SB 1137 or the state's fracking ban in the underlying environmental review. Its proposed December 2026 lease sale — 44 parcels, roughly 36,000 acres across the Bakersfield and Central Coast regions — **includes nearly 3,800 acres that fall inside SB 1137's health protection zones**, alongside nearly 13,000 acres bordering Carrizo Plain National Monument and more than 1,300 acres within the Lokern-Buena Vista and Chico Martinez Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Despite the significant harm that drilling and fracking on these leases will cause, BLM's environmental assessment found "no significant impact" to the environment. BLM has also determined, preliminarily, that no historic properties would be affected — on land within the ancestral homelands of the Chumash, Yokuts, and Salinan peoples, near Painted Rock, one of the most significant Indigenous sacred sites in North America.

We do not have to guess what happens when the federal government decides state environmental review is an obstacle rather than a requirement. We have already watched it happen in Santa Barbara, where the Trump administration took action intended to authorize Sable Offshore to restart its long-dormant pipeline back into operation over the objections of the very state agencies charged with protecting our coast. Just as the state is fighting that action, it must do everything it can to defend SB 1137 and the state's fracking ban.

**California has the tools to fight back — they must be used before this administration's window closes.**

No oil or gas well can be drilled in California — on federal, state, or private land — without a permit from CalGEM. That permitting process is discretionary. It does not have to defer to BLM's "no significant impact" finding, and it should not. We are asking you to act, specifically and without delay, to:

1. **Direct CalGEM to require full discretionary review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) — not a rubber stamp of BLM's federal environmental assessment** — for any permit application tied to wells within this lease sale, and any future federal lease on California public land.
2. **Affirm that SB 1137's health protection zones apply in full to any well permit CalGEM reviews, regardless of whether the underlying land or mineral rights are federal, state, or private**

**3. Confirm that the state will enforce the fracking ban against all drilling projects in the state, even those under federal leases. .**

The administration should use rulemakings, policies, executive orders, or guidelines to cement these directives. Governor Newsom, Secretary Crowfoot, and Supervisor Ito have months left to use the full authority of their offices on this fight. California led the nation in protecting communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling. We are asking all of you, together, to use that time and that authority now — this is your legacy to protect.

Sincerely,

**350 Bay Area Action**

Valerie Ventre-Hutton, Legislative Analyst

**350 Contra Costa Action**

Illana Weisman, Lead, Legislative Team

**350 South Bay Los Angeles**

Sherry Lear, Organizer

**350 Southland Legislative Alliance**

Sherry Lear, Steering Committee

**Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**

Katie Huffling, Executive Director

**Ballona Wetlands Institute**

Robert J. van de Hoek, Environmental Scientist

**Bay Area System Change not Climate Change**

David F. Gassman, Co-Convenor

**Black Women for Wellness**

Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Environmental Justice Program Director

**California Coastal Protection Network**

Susan Jordan, Founder and Executive Director

**California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)**

Nile Malloy, Climate Justice Director

**Center for Biological Diversity**

Jason Pfeifle, California Climate Organizing Director

**Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)**

Marven Norman, Environmental Policy Analyst

**Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment**

Kayla Karimi, Staff Attorney

**Central California Environmental Justice Network**

Nayamin Martinez, Director, Air and Climate Team

**CERBAT**

Lisabeth Ryder, Co-Chair

**Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) Santa Barbara**

Rachel Altman, Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Work Group

**Climate and Society Center, UC Berkeley**

Clair Brown, Professor and Co-Founder

**The Climate Center**

Woody Hastings, Phase Out Polluting Fuels Program Director

**Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)**

Haley Ehlers, Executive Director

**Climate Hawks Vote**

RL Miller, President

**Climate Health Now Action Fund**

Ashley McClure, Executive Director

**Climate Reality Project San Diego**

Cherry Robinson, Chapter Chair

**Coastal Lands Action Network (CLAN)**

Dee Fromm, Managing Director

**Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)**

Bahram Fazeli, Policy Director  
Roberto Cabrales, SoCal Program Co-Director,  
Wilmington

**The Conservation Lands Foundation**

Jora Fogg, Public Lands Policy Associate  
Director

**Consumer Watchdog**

Liza Tucker, Consumer Advocate

**Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action**

Avital Raff, California Organizer and Campaigner

**Defend Ballona Wetlands**

Marcia Hanscom, Community Organizer & Legal  
Coordinator

**Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern  
California (NorCal) Chapter**

Todd Weber, Volunteer, Chapter Co-Leader

**Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern  
California (SoCal) Chapter**

Richard Burke, Founder, Chapter Leader

**Environment California**

Laura Deehan, State Director

**Environmental Action Committee of West  
Marin**

Isabel Dawson, Policy Associate

**Environmental Defense Center**

Maggie Hall, Deputy Chief Counsel

**EOPA Code Blue**

Angel Alfaro, Program Manager

**Fossil Free California Votes**

Deborah Silvey, Co-Lead, FFCV Climate Justice  
Team

**FracTracker Alliance**

Kyle Ferrar, Western Program Director

**FutureSwell**

Mark Haver, Strategic Advisor

**GreenLatinos**

Pedro Hernandez, California State Director

**Heal the Bay**

Kerry J. Nickols, Ph.D., Science and Policy  
Director

**Humboldt Waterkeeper**

Jennifer Kalt, Executive Director

**Inland Ocean Coalition**

Vicki Nichols Goldstein, Founder & Director

**Let's Go Farm**

Joseph W. Smith, Owner/Manager

**Los Padres ForestWatch**

Carla Mena, Director of Policy & Legislative  
Affairs

**Ocean Conservation Research**

Michael Stocker, Director

**Oil & Gas Action Network**

Ilonka Zlatar, California Organizer

**Oil Change International**

Allie Rosenbluth, US Campaign Manager

**Orange County Coastkeeper**

Garry Brown, President & CEO

**The Phoenix Group**

Manuel José Espinosa, Principal

**Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los  
Angeles**

Emma Silber, Climate Justice Program  
Coordinator

**Physicians for Social Responsibility –  
Sacramento**

Harry Wang, MD, President

**Plastic Free Future**

Alejandra Warren, Executive Director

**Presente.org**

Matt Nelson, Executive Director

**Protect Monterey County**

Dr. Laura Solorio, President

**Redeemer Community Partnership**

Richard Parks, President

**Resource Renewal Institute**

Chance Cutrano, Director of Programs

**Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous  
Peoples**

Domonique Insixiengmay, Program Admin &  
Comms Director

**San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social  
Responsibility**

Robert M. Gould, MD, President

**San Francisco Baykeeper**

Ben Eichenberg, Senior Staff Attorney

**SanDiego350**

Katharine Harrison, Co-Lead, Legislative Team

**Santa Cruz Climate Action Network**

Pauline Seales, Organizer

**Save Our Shores**

Katie Thompson, Executive Director

**SCOPE, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education**

Tanya Borja, EJ Policy Associate

**Sierra Club California**

Gabriela Facio, Senior Policy Strategist

**Society of Fearless Grandmothers Santa Barbara**

Irene Cooke, Organizer

**STAND-LA Coalition**

Emma Silber, Coalition Co-Coordinator

**Sunflower Alliance**

Shoshana Wechsler, Coordinator

**Surfrider Foundation**

Jennifer Savage, California Policy Associate  
Director

**Sustainable Mill Valley**

Marilyn Price, Co-Chair

**Turtle Island Restoration Network**

Ken Bouley, Executive Director

**UNIDOS Network**

Miguel Alatorre Jr., Executive Director/Co-  
Founder

**West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs**

Janice Schroeder, Core Member

**Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation**

Alyssa Gonzalez Castaneda, Communications  
and Media Manager

**Youth v. Oil**

Maria Echevarria, Youth v. Oil Intern

CC: The Honorable Monique Limón  
Senate President pro Tempore  
California State Senate, District 21  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez  
California State Senator, District 33  
1021 O Street, Suite 7510  
Sacramento, CA 95814