

Submitted By:	MONTEREY COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #17	Resolution Number:
Committee:	CONSERVATION	2016-029
Received On:		
Scope:	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL	

FINAL – PASSED AT THE 141ST ANNUAL SESSION 06/26/2016

**BAN ENHANCED HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND
FRACTURING WASTE DISPOSAL IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS: America has experienced a boom in hydraulic fracturing and acid injection fracturing that permanently pollutes huge amounts of potable water with cancer causing chemicals that are disposed of by injecting the waste below or near local aquifers; and

WHEREAS: Wikipedia defines hydraulic fracturing (also hydro fracturing, hydro fracking or fracking), as “a well-stimulation technique in which rock, such as oil-bearing shale, is fractured by a hydraulically pressurized liquid made of water, sand, and chemicals. The high-pressure fluid (usually chemicals and sand suspended in water) is injected into a wellbore to create cracks in the deep-rock formations through which natural gas, petroleum, and brine will flow more freely. When the hydraulic pressure is removed from the well, small grains of hydraulic fracturing proppants (either sand or aluminum oxide) hold the fractures open. A proppant is a solid material, typically sand, treated sand or man-made ceramic materials, designed to keep an induced hydraulic fracture open, during or following a fracturing treatment”; and

WHEREAS: Wikipedia defines steam injection as “a common method of extracting heavy crude oil. It is considered an enhanced oil recovery (EOR) method and is the main type of thermal stimulation of oil reservoirs. There are several different forms of the technology, with the two main ones being Cyclic Steam Stimulation and Steam Flooding. Both are most commonly applied to oil reservoirs, which are relatively shallow and which contain crude oils which are very viscous at the temperature of the native underground formation. Steam injection is widely used in the San Joaquin Valley of California (USA), the Lake Maracaibo area of Venezuela, and the oil sands of northern Alberta (Canada)”; and

WHEREAS: In the summer of 2014, officials of the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) admitted that for years they violated federal law by inadvertently allowing oil companies to inject wastewater — from fracturing and other oil production operations — into hundreds of disposal wells in “protected aquifers”; and

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<input type="checkbox"/> Favorable	<input type="checkbox"/> Favorable	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Favorable As Amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected
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34
35 WHEREAS: The federal Environmental Protection Agency has called the state's errors
36 "shocking" and said California's oil field wastewater injection program does not comply
37 with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; and

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39 WHEREAS: In March 2015, as reported by the LA Times, California Senators held
40 hearings regarding the failure to comply with federal law by California's Division of Oil,
41 Gas and Geothermal Resources and by the state Water Resources Control Board,
42 characterizing longstanding agency management of injected fracturing waste as corrupt
43 and inept; and

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45 WHEREAS: The hydraulic fracturing industry is expanding across California's
46 agriculture areas including Fresno, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Benito
47 counties and is lobbying for unrestricted hydraulic fracturing in Monterey County; and

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49 WHEREAS: California is the largest multi crop-producing state in the United States
50 and many highly productive and profitable agriculture areas rely on local aquifers as a
51 precious source of water to remain productive; and

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53 WHEREAS: If the source of water for the agriculture and vintner industries in
54 California was polluted by hydraulic fracturing operations or by hydraulic fracturing
55 waste, that pollution could cause long-term devastating economic impact on the
56 agricultural regions, and on the California state economy; and

57
58 WHEREAS: Many California water basins have been over drafted for years, are not
59 now sustainable, and must be returned to a sustainable condition as required by the
60 2015 California State Groundwater Sustainability Act; and

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62 WHEREAS: The United States Geological Survey has reported that "...injection of
63 hydraulic fracturing wastewater into the subsurface can cause earthquakes that are
64 large enough to be felt and may cause damage. ... Of the case histories, for which there
65 is a scientific consensus that an injection operation induced earthquakes, the largest are

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66 magnitude 5. However, there is no conclusive example linking injection operations to
67 triggering of major earthquakes, however we cannot eliminate this possibility.”; and

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69 WHEREAS: On March 4, 2015 the Salinas Californian reported that the “San Andreas
70 Fault could deliver wallop in Salinas area” because it is locking up in the Parkfield area
71 of Monterey County by storing almost half an inch of stress per year, enough to cause a
72 magnitude 6 earthquake, according to findings released in the scientific journal
73 Geophysical Research Letters; and

74
75 WHEREAS: Monterey County is the most seismically active oil region in the United
76 States and has the San Andreas Fault running the north-south length of the county.
77 Thus, the likelihood of underground hydraulic fracturing waste leaking into local water
78 sources is more likely in this valley than anywhere else for two reasons. Toxic
79 underground waste would be subject to naturally occurring earthquakes at a level not
80 seen in other areas. Plus, injecting hydraulic fracturing waste at high pressure into the
81 California water basin would increase underground pressure gradients that might
82 increase the number or size of earthquakes in the county.

83
84 Hence, allowing industrial-level consumption of water by permitting new enhanced
85 extraction hydraulic fracturing wells within California water basins would be detrimental
86 to returning the basins to a sustainable condition, would directly compete with existing
87 agriculture/vintner water use, and likely constrain agriculture operations in the state.

88
89 Additionally, allowing storage of millions of gallons of toxic hydraulic fracturing waste
90 under or near water aquifers in water basins would unnecessarily create a huge risk of
91 pollution to a precious source of water within the state and create an unacceptable risk
92 to the California economy; therefore be it

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94 RESOLVED: That the California State Grange urges the legislature of the State of
95 California to ban enhanced hydraulic fracturing and fracturing waste disposal in
96 injection wells in the State of California.

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