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Sierra Club Responds to State of the State Address: Calls for Moratorium on Fracking in Light of Water Shortage

Sacramento – Sierra Club California offers the following statement in response to Governor Brown’s State of the State address.

Statement from Kathryn Phillips, director, Sierra Club California:

“Governor Brown made his strength as a leader clear this past week when he declared a drought emergency in California. He touched on important specifics as to how he plans to guide us through this crisis in his State of the State speech this morning.

“However, he missed a vital opportunity to call for a moratorium on one of the biggest threats to California’s water security: fracking.

“So-called advanced oil extraction techniques, fracking and well stimulation, pollute millions of gallons of water with harsh, toxic chemicals, leaving the water unusable. Our limited fresh water should be reserved for supporting agriculture, quenching the thirst of city dwellers and providing flows for endangered fish and wildlife.

“Expanding production of fossil fuels contradicts California’s commitment to addressing climate disruption. It diverts investment from clean energy to dirty fuels that are at the heart of the climate problem.

“Governor Brown should follow in the footsteps of New York’s Governor Cuomo and impose a moratorium on fracking until there is clear evidence that the practice is not harmful to public health or the environment.”

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 380,000 members and supporters statewide.