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Sierra Club Responds to California Coastal Commission Review of Unregulated Off-Shore Fracking: Supports Commissioner Concerns Over “Business as Usual” During Study Period

Pismo Beach, Calif. – Sierra Club California offers the following statement in response to today’s California Coastal Commission discussion of ongoing unregulated hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) of off-shore oil wells.

Statement from Michael Thornton, Sierra Club California:

“We salute the Coastal Commission for opening up its review of off-shore fracking at this public meeting. This kind of public forum is a refreshing change from the delays and secrecy around fracking that we see coming from other state agencies. Given the growing public health concerns associated with fracking, the public has a right to know how and where it’s happening around the state.

“Staff advised Commissioners that they do not have the legal authority to call for a full moratorium on off-shore fracking. **The Commission could – and should – turn down all fracking permit applications that come before it on a case-by-case basis until we have a better understanding of its effects on public health and natural resources.**

“Chairman Kinsey said it best when he chided the State Legislature for allowing fracking to continue in a ‘business-as-usual’ manner until environmental studies are completed in 2015. We urge the Coastal Commission to do all that it can to limit fracking in the meantime.”

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.