

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Contact:** Bryan Parras, (713) 303-5811 or [bryan.parras@sierraclub.org](mailto:bryan.parras@sierraclub.org)  
Courtney Naquin, (409) 779-7949 or [courtney.naquin@sierraclub.org](mailto:courtney.naquin@sierraclub.org)

**28 Organizations Call on Houston's Mayor Turner to Drop Support for Rio Grande LNG Fracked Gas Project**

**BROWNSVILLE, TX** -- 28 organizations sent a [letter](#) calling on Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner to rescind his support for NextDecade's proposed Rio Grande fracked gas export terminal and Rio Bravo Pipeline in the Rio Grande Valley. The organizations included several Houston-based groups, in addition to statewide and national organizations.

The letter was sent in response to Mayor Turner's attempt to influence the federal permitting process for the controversial fracked gas project. In 2018, Turner sent a letter on behalf of the City of Houston and the Climate Mayors group to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) endorsing the fracked gas project, in which he falsely characterizes liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a solution to the climate crisis. A delegation of Rio Grande Valley residents traveled to Houston to meet with members of Mayor Turner's staff in May and sent a request to drop the project, but Mayor Turner has not responded.

The proposed fracked gas project is facing tremendous opposition from the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe and the communities of the South Padre Island, Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, and Long Island Village that would be negatively affected by the project.

If built, Rio Grande LNG would threaten pristine wetlands and the habitat of the endangered ocelot. The company has also failed to consult with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe, the indigenous people of the region. It would be the second-largest fracked gas export terminal in North America, releasing more than eight million tons of greenhouse gas pollution per year, making it the biggest polluter in the Rio Grande Valley region.

"I'm calling on Houston's Mayor Turner to drop his support for the Rio Grande LNG terminal, a dangerous fracked gas project opposed by the communities near South Padre Island that will face the destructive impacts," said **Bryan Parras, Houston Sierra Club organizer**. "Residents opposing the project have met with Turner's chief of staff earlier this year, and he has not answered their request."

"Our local economy is eco-tourism, fishing, and families that have traveled to experience a pristine South Padre Island beach unspoiled by the polluting fossil fuel industry," said **Terrie Nuñez, Laguna Vista, TX**. "I'm asking Mayor Turner to support our communities, as my Mayor does, and rescind his support for Rio Grande LNG."

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About the Sierra Club

*The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).*