

It's Time for the End of Oil



San Luis Obispo and half a dozen oil impacted communities across the state joined forces at noon on April 8 to urge Governor Newsom to halt new oil and gas projects in California and strengthen health and safety protections for frontline communities.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued its 2022 assessment of climate change. In the words of the U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, “The jury has reached a verdict and it is damning. This report of the IPCC is a litany of broken climate promises. It is a file of shame, cataloging the empty pledges that put us firmly on track towards an unlivable world.”

Last year, California forged ahead with plans to move beyond oil and gas. Gov. Newsom took noteworthy steps including announcing a [2045 oil production phaseout goal](#), a proposed ban on new fracking, and [a draft setbacks rule](#) to prevent new neighborhood drilling. He’s also been vocal about the need to make fossil fuels “[part of our past](#).[”] Californians couldn’t agree more. That’s why we’re calling on him to keep up the urgency by doubling down on his commitment to end fossil fuel production, stop issuing new fossil fuel permits, and strengthen the statewide setbacks rule.

On April 8, communities across the state told Governor Newsom that a crucial component to climate leadership is saying no to new fossil fuel projects. On the Central Coast, our community has shown that saying no to the fossil fuel industry is possible. (As did Sierra Club attorneys on a larger scale, recently winning [the cancellation of oil and gas leases](#) on more than 80 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico.)

Thanks to years of community advocacy, some local decision makers have started standing up to Big Oil, rejecting applications to develop their projects in our community (see “Exxon Denied”). Our continued advocacy is still needed to cancel the plans of Sentinel Peak Resources to expand the Arroyo Grande Oil field – containing the dirtiest oil this side of tar sands crude --

from 100 oil wells to 350, with drilling planned on hillsides on both sides of the 101 and a new pipeline crossing Pismo Creek.

Governor Newsom likes to make history, and he can do it again by becoming the first leader of a major world economy to commit to ending new permit approvals for fossil fuels immediately. Together we can work locally and statewide to make California cleaner, fairer, and safer.