

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT END OIL EXTRACTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, California is the nation's seventh-largest oil-producing state, extracting around 150 [million barrels of oil per year](#), and estimated to contain half of the nation's heavy oil; and

WHEREAS, during 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom's administration issued [833 new or re-work oil and gas drill permits and 12 new fracking permits](#); and

WHEREAS, although, on April 23rd, 2021, [Governor Newsom announced his plan](#) to end oil extraction by 2045, we need to hold Governor Newsom and future California leaders accountable by creating concrete legislation; and

WHEREAS, scientists from around the world have [concluded](#) that greenhouse gases emitted through human activities have caused the global temperature to increase in the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County has crossed the [+1.5 degrees Celsius temperature limit set in the Paris agreement, reaching +1.9 degrees Celsius](#); and

WHEREAS, San Diego has experienced [sea level rise of 0.71 feet throughout the 21st century](#); and

WHEREAS, in 2021, [2.6 million acres burned in 6,821 wildfires](#); and

WHEREAS, by the mid-21st century, researchers project that the number of days with a heat index [over 100°F will double and days with an index of 105°F](#) will triple nationwide due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, fracking creates high, dangerous amounts of air pollution and [toxic wastewater](#) that have been connected to the cause of severe headaches, childhood leukemia, [asthma symptoms](#), birth defects, cardiac problems; and

WHEREAS, if the number of fracking sites increases, the number of air pollutants and amount of methane – a potent greenhouse gas with a [global warming potential 85 times higher](#) than CO₂ – in our environment will increase to unsustainable levels that threaten the health and future of San Diego Mesa College students; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the [California Council on Science and Technology](#) recommended a health and safety buffer zone between sensitive sites and oil and gas wells, citing studies on the harms that oil and gas extraction, [including contamination of ground and surface water by the toxic wastewater resulting from fracking](#), poses to human health; and

WHEREAS, a 2020 [analysis](#) by [FracTracker Alliance](#) found that 7.37 million Californians live within 1 mile of an oil and gas well with [352,782](#) California students living in these zones; and of

those who live within 2,500 feet of an operational oil and gas well, more than 43% are non-white; and

WHEREAS, California Independent Petroleum Association has collected more than [978,000](#) signatures and in 2024 will challenge the 3,200 foot health and safety setback established by SB1137; and

WHEREAS, climate change, predominantly fueled by burning fossil fuels, has resulted in unprecedented natural disasters, devastating storms, historic droughts, wildfires, and extreme heat which affect [San Diego Mesa College Students' physical and mental health](#); and

WHEREAS, the [CDC](#) has found that the leading cause of disability and mortality among high school and college athletes is heat illness, and the individuals at the greatest risk are from [ages 15-19](#); and

WHEREAS, San Diego Community College District is comprised of [70%](#) non-white students; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Community College District students who reside in low-income communities and communities of color, [including](#) Hispanic, Asian, and Black or African American, are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental impacts, including significantly worse air pollution causing residents to develop asthma at more than twice the national average, heat island effect, and elevated infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, University of California, Santa Barbara, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Riverside, and the San Diego City Council have passed resolutions imploring Governor Newsome to end oil extraction; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Mesa College has set forth the stewardship goal to create a [climate action plan by 2026](#) to reduce their carbon footprint along with their impact on climate change; and

WHEREAS, San Diego City College has made [advancing social and environmental justice a priority by 2027](#); and

WHEREAS, San Diego Miramar College was [built using sustainable design strategies](#) focused on supporting existing ecosystems, alternative methods of transportation, and reducing light pollution, water and energy waste; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Miramar College's Administration building [has received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#) (LEED) Gold Certification; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Continuing Education has established a [Sustainability Committee Action Plan](#) outlining 10 goals to increase the sustainability of their campus and community; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Community College District has set forth a goal to [create a plan to help reduce their carbon footprint by 2030](#); and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Community College District has shown support of student leadership in fighting for a healthy and fossil fuel free future; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Diego Community College District urges Governor Newsom to immediately cease issuing new oil and natural gas permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Community College District urges Governor Newsom to immediately begin the process of justly phasing out oil and gas extraction in California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Community College District urges Governor Newsom to use executive power to implement buffer zones of at least 3,200 feet between existing and future oil and gas extraction sites, communities and neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, care facilities, public buildings, and other sensitive sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Community College District calls for a just and equitable transition to a greener economy through prioritizing the creation and preservation of sustainable union jobs and greater access to union apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship programs, in order to ensure that BIPOC communities and SDCCD students currently employed in the fossil fuel sector are able to transition to and secure sustainable careers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Community College District will continue to recognize climate change and climate justice as issues of importance to the San Diego community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Diego Community College District will continue to transition to renewable energy sources, with the urgency called for by the climate crisis.