

# OCEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH



*Science and technology serving the sea*

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 16, 2020

Re: Climate Disruption

Dear Governor Newsom,

We appreciate your unequivocal statements about climate change throughout your recent field briefings on our tragic, and historic Western wildfires. While we have known about the anthropogenic contribution to the oncoming catastrophe for over forty years, the evidence has become so widespread and so undeniable, that is no longer a political risk to unambiguously, even forcefully state it.

Climate disruption is having disastrous impacts on human lives, natural resources, wildlife, and the human economy. Fires in California and the Amazon; rapid-fire storms and hurricanes of historic force in the South and East, global droughts and deluges, and ocean habitat die-offs are all harbingers of things to come.

In light of all of this, we question the wisdom – even the sanity of your record of approving 2691 new drilling permits in the first six months of 2020, a 190% increase from your first six months in office, including 48 new permits for hydraulic fracturing (fracking).<sup>1</sup> It is well past the time for us to put the brakes on Californian Fossil Fuels.

California has a robust economy, and a huge, informed population. Everyone in California has been, and will continue to be affected by the consequences climate change. It is time to strike hard while the ‘iron is hot,’ so to speak. As the smoke from this current round of wildfires is clearing, we need to be seriously questioning our relationship with private automobiles, air travel, unsustainable (fossil fuel dependent) agriculture, industrial-scale cattle ranching, and a commoditized culture reliant upon continuous consumption.

Changing all of these relationships is a big ask, but they must be changed, and we must start somewhere. Issuing 2691 drilling fossil fuel permits is not even close to the starting line.

Sincerely,



Michael Stocker, Director

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<sup>1</sup> AP News Sept. 2 2020, Daisy Nguyen