

## PROTECTION FOR WORKING CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS on the 2024 CA BALLOT ECOSOCIALISTS EXPLORE A POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN

*A work in progress submitted by CA DSA delegates Bonnie Lockhart (EB) & Tyler Brown (SF), and EBDSA members Susan Schacher, Ian Forgie, Olivia Payton and Ted Franklin*

We are exploring possibilities for a CA DSA campaign to counter a referendum by the fossil fuel industry to overturn SB 1137, passed by the CA legislature and signed into law in 2022. SB 1137 prohibits new or modified oil and gas wells within 3,200 feet of homes, schools, day care centers, parks, healthcare facilities and businesses—a minimal buffer zone recommended by experts to protect public health and safety. The struggle for SB 1137 was hard-fought for by working class communities of color in [LA](#) and [Kern](#) counties with the support of [several unions](#) at the state level,

**CA DSA Ecosocialist Working Group will discuss this at our meeting Sept 10, 6 PM.**

Zoom link will appear on CA DSA web calendar. All DSA comrades in California are welcome.

**BACKGROUND ON THE REFERENDUM:** As the ink was drying on SB 1137, [California's oil industries](#) kicked in \$21 million to sponsor a “veto referendum” to undo the legislation. Using a [deceitful signature gathering](#) project, Big Oil succeeded in getting their [referendum](#) approved for the 2024 ballot, thus, at minimum, delaying implementation of SB 1137 by two years. The fossil fuel industry will spend heavily trying to divide working class voters by presenting SB 1137's protection of front-line communities as job destruction. Unless a majority of voters vote “YES” on the referendum, SB 1137 will be wiped off the books.

In July 2023, a broad coalition of environmental and climate justice organizations launched the [Campaign for a Safe and Healthy California](#) to fight Big Oil and protect the setback legislation.

### WHY CA DSA SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SETBACK PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

Campaigning for setbacks in the 2024 election will provide a great opportunity for DSA to organize in workplaces and communities around a popular limit on growth of the fossil fuel industry, develop our structure and power for winning statewide campaigns, and build working class organization and power by connecting and politicizing struggles for:

- [A Just Transition with Managed Drawdown of Fossil Fuels](#)  
Ecosocialists must engage in this [crucial climate demand](#) and build relationships with organizations mobilizing thousands of BIPOC youth around this issue. “Yes” to Green New Deal type job creation is necessary but not sufficient. We must join and strengthen a working-class fight to say “No” to this deadly industry.
- [Racial Justice](#)  
Neighborhood drilling disproportionately harms working class people of color. Partnering with BIPOC-led organizations in this fight furthers national and chapter priorities.
- [Union Power and Solidarity](#)  
Trusting relationships can be built as we collaborate with both rank and file union members and also CA SEIU and [others](#) who will support this campaign

### HOW CA DSA CAN STRENGTHEN THE CAMPAIGN and BUILD WORKING CLASS POWER

CA DSA can build alliances with both labor and climate/environmental justice groups to develop canvass materials, public events and imaginative media to:

- Reframe this fight, busting the industry's Jobs vs Climate myth which they'll center in their propaganda.
- Reject industry fearmongering by promoting real solutions such as [the California Climate Jobs Plan](#) that is endorsed by over 20 unions.
- Expose the hypocrisy of the State of California's “Climate Leader” claims with a critique of their facilitating industry's capture of public funds for false solutions while ignoring needs of workers and frontline communities for a managed phaseout of fossil fuel extraction and production.