

1. SENATE RESOLUTION
[NUMBER - [SR-F22-006](#)]

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SPONSOR(S)	Alexander Hunt (BCOE Senator)
TITLE	In Support of Ending Fracking and Oil Drilling in California

WHEREAS, California is the nation’s seventh-largest oil-producing state, refining around 150 million barrels of oil per year, and estimated to contain 28.9% of the nation’s heavy oil;

WHEREAS, nearly 7.37 million Californians live within one mile of an active oil or gas site, and over 2 million Californians, disproportionately people of color, live within 3,200ft of an oil or gas well;

WHEREAS, California Governor Newsom’s administration has approved more than 8,536 new permits for new oil and gas wells since September 4, 2022;

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2021, Governor Newsom announced his administration would take steps to plan for an end to oil extraction by 2045;

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report unequivocally stating that human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and irreversible ways, which UN Secretary-General António Guterres called a “code red for humanity”;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2022, California Governor Newsom signed legislation into law that will introduce 3,200-ft setback buffer zones between new oil wells and sensitive sites like homes, schools, and hospitals;

WHEREAS, On November 11, 2021, the State of California joined the international Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, aligning itself with nations committing to phasing out oil and gas production;

WHEREAS, if current fossil fuel production rates stay constant, scientists predict that irreversible effects of climate change will be visible before 2050 and as early as the next decade, years before California Governor Newsom's current plan to phase out fossil fuel production;

WHEREAS, if state regulators do not reduce oil and gas emissions, California will not meet its legislative mandate of lowering greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1999 levels by 2030;

WHEREAS, various methods of oil extraction leak methane, which is up to 105 times as powerful as carbon dioxide as a greenhouse pollutant;

WHEREAS, oil drilling releases large amounts of dangerous air pollution that have been correlated to long-term health impacts such as severe headaches, asthma symptoms, birth defects, and cardiac problems;

WHEREAS, if the number of oil extraction sites increases, the number of air pollutants and amount of greenhouse gasses in our environment will increase to unsustainable levels that threaten the health and future of UC Riverside students;

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;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that the leading cause of disability and mortality among college athletes is heat illness, and the individuals at the greatest risk are from ages 15-19;

WHEREAS, children are disproportionately impacted by the health hazards caused by fracking, causing poor academic performance as well as traumatic distress;

WHEREAS, the environmental hazards of fracking targets vulnerable populations such as low-income, rural, and indigenous people;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 352,724 students in California who attend school within one mile of an oil and gas well and are predominantly from Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities;

WHEREAS, UC Riverside is made up of over 77.1% students of color and 39% first-generation college students;

WHEREAS, frontline communities residing in Riverside county are disproportionately harmed by climate change and environmental impacts, ranking in the 90-95 percentile on the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 for worst overall pollution and 90-100 percentile in Asthma overall;

WHEREAS, In Early September 2022 California experienced a record breaking heatwave where Sacramento reached 116 degrees and Riverside reached 110 degrees. Greatly influencing students' ability to walk to class;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The Associated Students of UC Riverside -

- (1) that UC Riverside urges Governor Newsom to immediately stop issuing new oil permits and to begin the process of phasing out oil extraction in California through a just transition that protects workers and frontline communities;
- (2) *Let It Be Further Resolved* UC Riverside will continue to recognize climate change and climate justice as issues of importance to the city of Riverside and Riverside County;
- (3) *Let It Be Finally Resolved* UC Riverside will continue to transition to renewable energy sources with the urgency that the climate crisis calls for:

CC: Highlander Newspaper
UCR Chancellor
Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
UCR Office of Sustainability
Vice President of Sustainability
President of UC Drake

SUBMITTED ON - *November 14, 2022*

COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - *November 14, 2022*

VOTE COUNT - *5-0-2*

SENATE APPROVED ON - *November 16, 2022*

VOTE COUNT - *13-0-2*