

Response to Gov. Newsom's Executive Order Phasing Out Combustion Engine Vehicles in California

Executive Order is a good first step, but more is needed to fight the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

San Diego -- After [today's announcements from California Governor Gavin Newsom on climate initiatives](#), SanDiego350's Executive Director Masada Disenhouse released the following statement:

"We applaud Governor Newsom for issuing [an executive order](#) that takes this necessary step to ensure that all passenger vehicles sold in California are zero emission by 2035 and all heavy-duty trucks by 2045, and California's continued leadership in phasing out combustion engine vehicles.

"However, this step alone will not stop the massive fires, the heatwaves, and pollution California is experiencing due to climate change from getting far worse. We call on the Governor to immediately take additional steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and ensure that California's most vulnerable communities are not bearing the brunt of the connected impacts of oil extraction, refineries and vehicles.

"Specific steps the Governor should take include:

- **End oil extraction in California:** Immediately stop approving new permits for fracking (the Governor's office has approved over [1,500 new permits in 2020](#)) and create a plan for phasing out oil production in California. Immediately require health and safety buffer zones between oil drilling sites and schools, homes and businesses.
- **Build out transit across the state:** Create a statewide program to ensure transit infrastructure is prioritized and funded. Work with the legislature to fund free transit passes for youth.
- **End use of gas for homes and businesses:** Create an immediate statewide mandate for all new homes and most commercial and industrial buildings to be fully electric, and solidify a plan for retrofitting existing buildings.
- **Move up the timeline for achieving 100% clean electricity:** the state is currently aiming to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2045, that date should be moved up to 2030.
- **Create a Just Recovery and Green New Deal for California:** Develop a structure and clear plans for ensuring that California's covid recovery prioritizes investment in environmental justice communities, creates green union jobs where they are most needed, and implements training and other needed transitions to provide for workers in the affected industries.
- **Appoint climate leaders to key regulatory agencies, boards and commissions:** State regulators (e.g., on the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, the Air Resources Board) must be highly qualified and dedicated, free from any entanglements with the corporate interests they oversee and accountable to the public. "