



## Press Release

### Media Contact

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### **Record number of Signatures Received to Ban both Fracking and Oil Expansion in San Luis Obispo County**

*Protecting region's water supplies, air quality and diverse local economy are priorities for campaign leaders, who represent local business, agriculture and conservation communities.*

**San Luis Obispo, CA—March 12, 2018**...Coalition to Protect San Luis Obispo County has reported a record number of signatures received within first two weeks of the Campaign to Protect Our Water, Air, and Land in San Luis Obispo County.

"We received over 2,000 signatures throughout the County within the first two weeks and we have great momentum. San Luis Obispo County residents have acted in the past to limit the risks of oil production in the county and the turnout over these two weeks is a positive indication that residents are ready for change," said Doug Timewell, retired Farmer and Vintner.

Initiative proponents will need to gather 8,850 valid signatures from registered voters in San Luis Obispo County to qualify the "Protect Our Water, Air, and Land: Ban

Fracking and Oil Expansion in SLO County” initiative by May 1 to place the measure on the November 2018 ballot.

The initiative amends the county’s General Plan, Local Coastal Program and County Code to **prohibit using land in the county’s unincorporated areas for oil well stimulation treatments like fracking and acidizing. It would also prohibit new oil and gas well drilling land uses on unincorporated county lands. Under the initiative, existing oil and gas land uses would be allowed to continue, but not expand.** The initiative also protects vested rights and allows the county to grant limited exceptions to avoid taking private property.

The initiative is sponsored by the [Coalition to Protect San Luis Obispo County](#), a group of local volunteers working to protect local water, air and soil from pollution while encouraging a shift toward renewable energy, as called for in the county’s General Plan.

Proponents included a provision in the initiative to prohibit using unincorporated county land for oil well stimulation treatments like fracking and acidizing because the Monterey Shale formation underlies parts of San Luis Obispo County. Oil companies have identified this formation as a likely target for aggressive extraction techniques. Among other risks, fracking requires transportation and storage of hazardous chemicals, generates large amounts of toxic wastewater, and has been tied to increased seismic activity in other parts of the country.

“Our county is the ideal place to grow a business, raise a family, educate children and retire. We’re a renowned destination for tourists, thanks to pristine beaches and quality agriculture products - including wine,” noted Doug Timewell. “What’s important to residents of SLO County is evident by local growth in tourism, which accounts for \$1.6

billion of local revenues and 13 percent of local jobs. According to a 2016 report, agriculture generates another \$915 million in revenue every year; education and new business development are also big economic drivers. It's time for county residents to make our values clear, and to protect what is most important to us as a community. What's important to you, our water supply, tourism, agriculture and quality of life, or the growth of a polluting oil industry?"

**Call to Action**

Find locations all over the county where you can go to sign the initiative [click here](#) - and to learn more, read the initiative, or to volunteer your time to help - visit us at <http://protectslocounty.org>

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