

# **CITY OF SONOMA**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 34 - 2014**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA OPPOSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING) IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking", is a gas and oil resource extraction technology that drills wells vertically and horizontally deep under the earth's surface, through water tables, requires vast quantities of water, and uses numerous toxic chemicals injected under high pressure to crack shale and dense rock formations, producing toxic waste water, and therefore poses great potential threat to the public, the environment, the State's water supply and our coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing is not regulated in California and the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has insufficient records of the locations or numbers of wells where hydraulic fracturing is being used to extract oil and gas in the state, and does not maintain records of the types and amounts of chemicals used, the amount of water used or the disposition of the wastewater generated by this process; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is granted exceptions to compliance with federal legislation designed to protect the public and the environment, including the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 and the Clean Water Act of 1972 (amended 1977 and 1987); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 4 permits continuing unregulated fracking activity until at least July 1, 2015 when the State is scheduled to complete an environmental review of fracking in the State of California, and

WHEREAS, wastewater from hydraulic fracturing may be laced with hundreds of toxic chemicals, heavy metals and naturally occurring radioactive materials, as documented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and due to the volume and toxicity of "fracking" wastewater, treating such complex waste is difficult, making safe disposal a significant challenge and posing threats to the environment and public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, current disposal methods in the State of California are inadequate, and allow the possibility that "fracking" wastewater will affect watersheds, reaching rivers, streams, wetlands, bay and coastal waters, as well as agricultural and drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the vast quantities of water required for the hydraulic fracturing process reduce the availability of water for agricultural uses, in a state which relies heavily on agriculture for its economic strength and which suffers from the effects of periodic droughts; and

WHEREAS, the "fracking" process releases such hazardous air pollutants as methanol, formaldehyde, and carbon disulfide, in addition to the release of volatile organic compounds including benzene, toluene and nitrogen oxides. The projected 15 billion barrels of oil from the Monterey Shale are estimated to release 6.45 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, 15 times the total greenhouse gas emitted from all sources in California in 2010; and

WHEREAS, emissions generated by drilling and "fracking" for shale oil and gas, and producing, refining and burning shale oil and gas, result in significant and uncontrolled emission of methane, a far more lethal greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, unregulated "fracking" in California will likely undermine the State's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, per AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and the extraction of oil and gas, as well as coal, is antithetical to the necessary transition to 100% renewable energy sources needed to aggressively address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; and

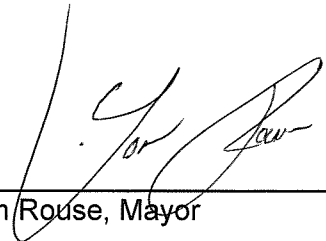
WHEREAS, the City of Sonoma City Council supports possible reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels, and has taken significant steps to address climate change, as evidenced by setting goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, protecting the health and safety of the environment and the public is of paramount concern and discouraging reliance on fossil fuels is congruent with the City of Sonoma's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sonoma opposes Hydraulic fracturing in the State of California.

ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014 by the following vote:

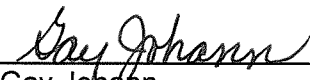
AYES: Barbose, Cook, Brown, Gallian, Rouse  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None



---

Tom Rouse, Mayor

ATTEST:



---

Gay Johann  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk