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,
marshes, 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 7th day of July, 2014 by the following vote:

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

[Signature]
Tom Rouse, Mayor

ATTEST:
Gay Johann
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk