

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of Support for	)	
Ending Fracking and Oil	)	<b>RESOLUTION</b>
<u>Drilling in California</u>	)	

**WHEREAS**, the rates of fracking are increasing in the United States, and according to the United States Energy Information Administration, are projected to increase to 44 percent by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, California is the nation’s seventh largest oil-producing state, extracting over 200 million barrels of oil per year, mainly through fracking, and estimated to contain half of the nation’s heavy oil; and

**WHEREAS**, in the first six months of 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom’s administration issued 2,691 new permits for fracking or reworking old permits; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Newsom has a plan to end the issuance of new hydraulic fracking permits by 2024; however, in order to avert the effects of climate change, action needs to be taken immediately; and

**WHEREAS**, communities across California are usually excluded from knowing what chemicals are being pumped by fracking companies in their neighborhoods, and there is no federal requirement for drillers to report what chemicals they use; and

**WHEREAS**, normally state provisions are inadequately enforced for fracking which endangers individuals living near those areas; and

**WHEREAS**, in studies where scientists research the effects of fracking on health, over 80% report serious risks; and

**WHEREAS**, fracking, both gas and oil, leaks methane which is up to 105 times as powerful as carbon dioxide as a greenhouse pollutant; and

**WHEREAS**, scientists from around the world have concluded that the probability that anthropogenic greenhouse gases have caused the global temperature to increase in the last 50 years is over 95 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, scientists have concluded that methane released from fracking wells is about 86 times more powerful at trapping heat in our atmosphere than carbon dioxide; and

**WHEREAS**, if the number of fracking sites increases, the number of air pollutants and amount of methane in our environment will increase to unsustainable levels that threaten the health and future of San Diego Unified students; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy of Pediatrics states that children are more vulnerable to heatwaves; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has found that the leading cause of disability and mortality among high school and college athletes is heat illness, and the individuals at the greatest risk are from ages 15-19; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change predominantly fueled by burning fossil fuels has resulted in unprecedented natural disasters, devastating storms, historic droughts, wildfires, and extreme heat which may affect San Diego Unified students' physical and mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, in August and September 2020, California recorded five of the six biggest wildfires in the state in 90 years; and

**WHEREAS**, fracking releases high, dangerous amounts of air pollution that have been connected to the cause of severe headaches, childhood leukemia, asthma symptoms, birth defects, and cardiac problems; and

**WHEREAS**, children are more vulnerable to the diseases caused by bad air quality because they spend more time outside, have immature/developing lungs, and breathe in more per body weight; and

**WHEREAS**, 92 percent of people living near fracking sites in California are Black, Indigenous, and people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, San Diego Unified students who reside in low-income communities and communities of color, including Barrio Logan, City Heights, and Southeast San Diego, are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental impacts, including significantly worse air pollution causing residents to develop asthma at more than twice the national average, heat island effect, and elevated infectious diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, fracking and climate change widen the disparities between children's physical and mental health as a result of racism and poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, the California PTA passed a resolution that recognized the issues that climate change presents to children's health and urges action around averting the effects of the climate crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the San Diego Unified Board of Education acknowledged the threat climate change poses to youth's health and adopted a resolution in support of the Parent Teachers Association's initiative to tackle climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the San Diego School Unified District created a plan to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2035 in order to mitigate the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego School Unified District currently has a climate action plan that reviews the ways the district can make a positive impact on climate change and how it can become an environmental leader in San Diego County; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego Unified School District has shown support of student leadership in fighting for a fossil fuel free future; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Unified School District urges Governor Newsom to cease issuing new oil permits and to develop a more comprehensive plan for phasing out fracking in California.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Unified School District calls on Governor Newsom to keep his previous promises about transitioning California away from fossil fuels and existing oil production.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the San Diego Unified School District will continue to recognize climate change and climate justice as issues of importance to the San Diego community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the San Diego Unified School district will continue to transition to renewable energy sources with the urgency called for by the climate crisis.

Approved and adopted by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, California, at a public meeting thereof duly called and held this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2021.

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Member

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Member

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Student Board Member

LEGALITY AND FORM APPROVED

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ANDRA M. GREENE, General Counsel  
San Diego Unified School District

Approved in public meeting of the Board of Education of  
the San Diego Unified School District on \_\_\_\_\_

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Marty Stultz, Board Action Officer, Board of Education