

DEAR GOVERNOR BROWN,

There is a significant gap between our current policies and what needs to be done to minimize the catastrophic impacts of climate change and meet the Paris Agreement goals you have championed. In September, as you welcome the world to San Francisco for the Global Climate Action Summit, you have an opportunity to set the new standard for global climate leadership.

We, the undersigned environmental, health, justice, faith, labor, community and consumer organizations from California and around the world, strongly urge you to champion a vision for California that looks beyond the oil and gas industry to a future that is safe and healthy for everyone. In order for us to support the summit, we call on you to:

1. Lead by announcing no new permits for oil and gas extraction, fossil fuel infrastructure, or petrochemical projects in California.
2. Set a global precedent by becoming the first oil producing state to announce a phase-out of existing production in line with the Paris climate goals, with a just and equitable transition that protects workers, communities, and economies, starting in places that are suffering most from the impacts of fossil fuel extraction.

You've stated numerous times that "time is running out" to solve the climate crisis. On this, we wholeheartedly agree. In the last year, we've watched our neighbors' homes burn, waded through flooded streets and endured record-setting temperatures.

In addition to climate impacts, oil and gas industry practices threaten public health, safety and our natural resources. We know that areas with more oil and gas development have higher community rates of asthma, preterm birth, birth defects, and acute illness complaints from residents.

In California, and around the world, these impacts fall disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color, exacerbating this health and justice crisis. And yet, California policy continues to ignore the extraction in our backyards, even after our state scientists made clear recommendations that would protect public health and our communities. This is unacceptable.

It is urgent that you set the state on a course to prevent further climate and community destruction. We must chart a path towards a just transition that protects workers and communities — both in these extractive industries and more broadly — and ensures living wage jobs that are safe for people and the planet.

As you've said for years on the global stage, there are few places on earth as well equipped as California to aggressively lead this change. Your leadership will not only help protect the health and safety of 39 million Californians, but also ensure a more equitable and healthy future for the billions of people around the world who look to you to pave the way. This, we hope, will be your legacy.

We look forward to your response,
— Over 750 organizations, and those signing on at brownslastchance.org