



February 28, 2018

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 11173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 558-3160

Dear Governor Brown,

We write today to ask you to immediately order the Department of Conservation and its Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to publicly post on its website an accurate list of all known surface expressions (i.e. oil leaks) in the State of California by oil-producing county.

It has come to our attention that in Kern County alone, DOGGR has identified 185 leaks tracked between 2012 and January 11, 2018. Moreover, 35 of these leaks occurred because of damage to well casings at shallow depths where aquifers are often located.

A “heat map” shows that particular areas of Kern are experiencing more frequent leaks than others. We attach the documentation we received together with this letter. State regulators have never publicly shared this information about such so-called “surface expressions” that include leaks of oil, drilling fluids, and toxic water.

In addition, your oil and gas regulators have removed from publication the map that detailed the surface expression investigation from the Chevron oil well eruption that killed oil worker David Taylor in 2011.

In the wake of your request to state regulators to map the oil prospects under your own ranch, the Department of Conservation promised to conduct geologic and resource surveys for Californians' private property in response to their requests for the same information.

Mapping oil spills near Californians' properties would be a far better use of regulators' time. If state regulators could produce a 51-page historical report for you within a few days, they can quickly produce a map of oil spills on or near private properties.

It is critically important for the public, lawmakers, and experts to accurately and on a timely basis track such leaks in real time in order to ascertain their number and extent, whether each leak is under control, and whether their number is increasing or decreasing over time in order to better protect the environment and public health.

In addition, the public has the right to know, and should easily be able to access via government websites, how frequently wells are inspected, how much oil operators are fined for such surface expressions, how much money each oil operator is required to put up in the form of financial assurance that guarantees cleanup, and in what instances they were required to use this money.

The data shared with us raise serious questions about the extent of surface expressions in other oil producing counties, particularly Santa Barbara County and Los Angeles County where many urbanites live just feet from drilling operations.

The only rational conclusion to be drawn from the deliberate nondisclosure of this surface expression data is that your Department of Conservation is helping to shield oil company profits, which come firmly before public health on the part of oil regulators.

Documentation provided to us provides a valuable roadmap for enforcement as it breaks down the number of surface expressions by operator. Chevron, Sentinel Peak, a Berry Petroleum spinoff, and Berry

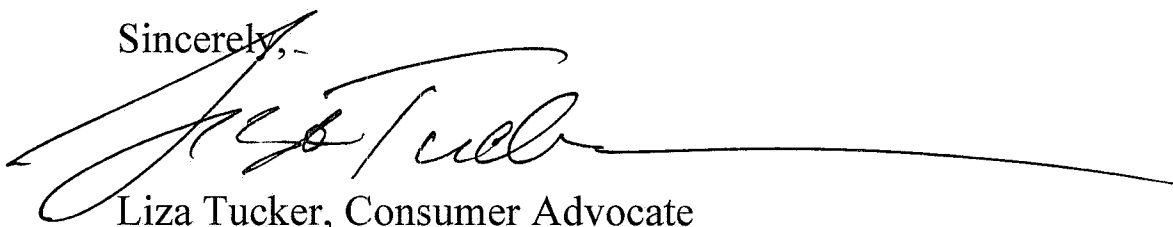
Petroleum are responsible for the majority of the leaks. Others on whose watch leaks occur include Aera Energy, Linn Operating, and CRC, a division of Occidental Petroleum.

As you will recall, Chevron and Occidental variously contributed to your political campaigns, the California Democratic Party that generously supported your 2014 re-election campaign, your ballot measures and favorite causes.

You have called global warming tied to fossil fuels an “existential threat.” In your final year in office, you have an opportunity, and indeed duty, to inform the public of the immediate dangers of fossil fuels to their health and environment as first step in a concrete plan to phase out fossil fuels that numerous environmental, consumer advocacy, faith, and environmental justice groups expect of you but have not seen.

Transparency is a prerequisite for taking action to hold the oil industry accountable for the environmental destruction it causes right here at home. We look forward to your appointees’ release of all data to do with leaks across the state in a manner that allows the public to easily access and track this information as well as the accountability of oil operators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liza Tucker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liza Tucker, Consumer Advocate

Consumer Watchdog

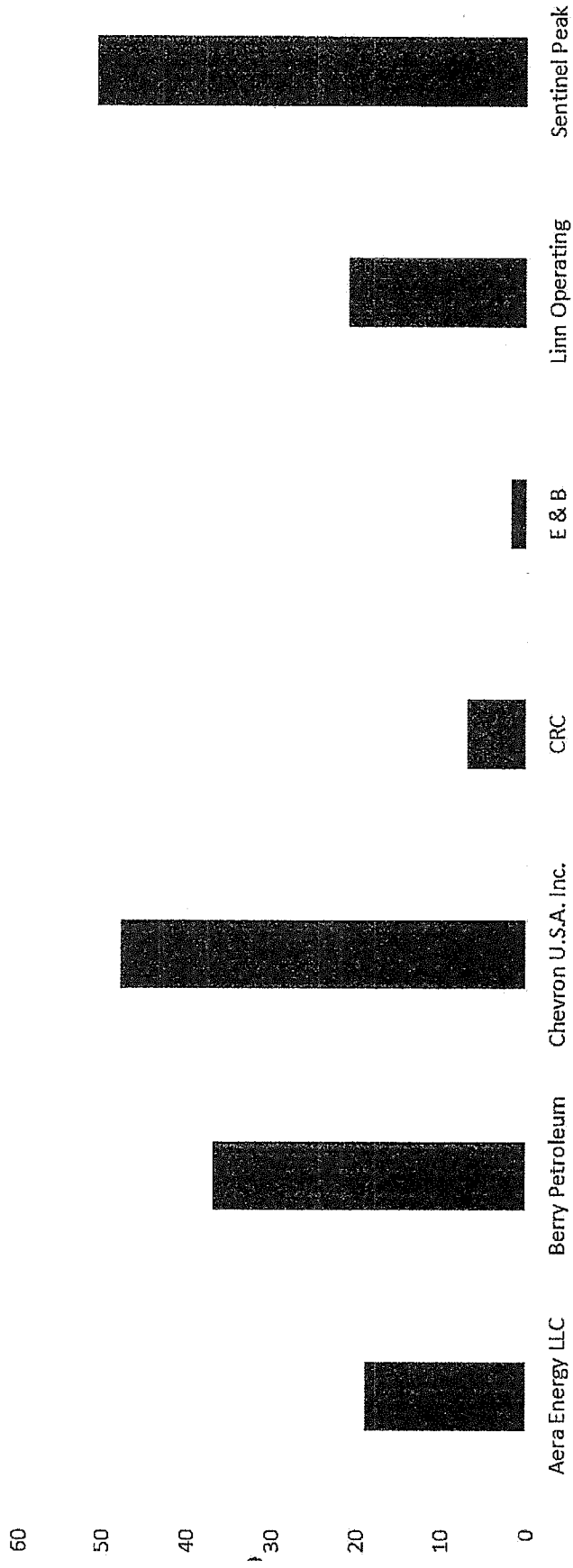
## Number of Surface Expressions by Field and Lease 2012 through Jan. 11, 2018



■ No. Surface Expressions 185

■ No. Surface Expressions from Shallow Casing Damage 35

Number of Surface Expressions by Operator  
2012 through Jan. 11, 2018



# Heat Map of the Frequency of Surface Expressions in the Inland District by Oil and Gas Lease

