



EARTHWORKS

# Earth Notes

March 31, 2014



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## EPA steps in to save Bristol Bay

Dear [[First\_Name]],

Salmon rejoice! After a very long battle, the [EPA has stepped in and initiated the 404c Clean Water Act process to stop the proposed Pebble mine.](#)

Thank you for signing your name and sending letters to President Obama and the EPA, this victory is yours.

Because of you, EPA is using its authority to consider its options for protecting thousands of wild Alaskan salmon, as well as the wildlife, jobs and families that rely on them.

To find out more about Bristol Bay visit <http://ourbristolbay.com>.

Check back soon for updates on how to send comments to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy during the 404c process.

Best wishes,

All of us at Earthworks



**EPA issues long overdue guidance on fracking with diesel**

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally delivered their final Guidance to their regional offices for regulating hydraulic fracturing with diesel fuel.

This guidance represents a long-awaited first step. It covers five common varieties of diesel fuel, but EPA needs a much broader definition.

Defining diesel leaves a lot of wiggle room. Other state and federal agencies include very similar but still chemically different substances as diesel for their purposes. We need to avoid a situation where simply tinkering around with the chemistry may allow some operators to slither around the narrow definition of "diesel" EPA chose.

We wanted EPA to ban diesel. Just like the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board (SEAB) Subcommittee on Natural Gas recommended, but there is good news.

Most important, EPA actually issued guidance. It is the first hydraulic fracturing oversight - well, suggestion at least - of any kind from EPA to take effect. Air rules promulgated by EPA take effect soon. Second, there is no de minimus standard. That is, the guidance applies to the very first molecule of diesel. Third, it effectively closes the Halliburton loophole for diesel use at a fracked well. Fourth, for these diesel fracked wells, permitting agencies may require seismic histories and testing, mechanical integrity testing, baseline water testing, and many other protections the SDWA applies to similar activities.

[Read our [press release](#) and find out more on [EARTHblog](#)]

## Rally in California: Climate Leaders Don't Frack

On March 15th, thousands of Californians came together in Sacramento to make it clear to Governor Brown and legislators that we don't want expanded drilling and fracking in our state.

Along with the signing of SB4, and the proposed regulations on fracking and well stimulation by DOGGR, California is preparing to massively expand drilling, and along with it, increase our dependence on fossil fuels, and exacerbate climate change.

The people demanded that:

- - Legislators support a fracking moratorium called for in SB1132, and
- - Governor Brown use his executive authority to halt this dangerous practice.

From San Diego to the Oregon border, nearly 4,000 people made their voices heard in Sacramento, and delivered a clear message to the Governor: "Climate leaders don't frack!"

[Read more on [EARTHblog](#).]

**People in Denton, TX want to ban fracking**



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Smock gives 100% of the profits from this Change the World letterpress card to Earthworks OGAP

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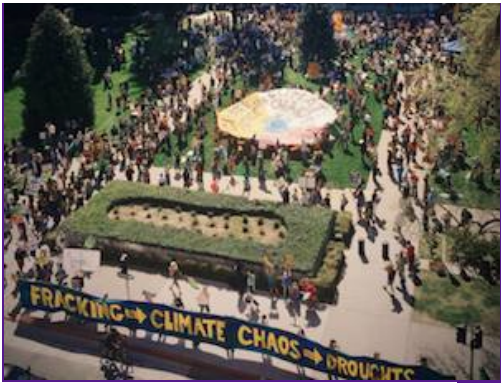
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**Say NO to Dirty Gold!**







The Denton Drilling Awareness Group is collecting signatures for a ballot initiative to ban fracking within city limits. If approved by voters, Denton would become the first major Texas city to ban fracking, and the first city in the country to ban fracking after permits had been previously granted.

"The city and the state have repeatedly failed us," said Maile Bush, whose family is impacted by fracking-enabled oil and gas development. She continued, "My family is breathing horrible fumes, we can't enjoy our property and we're trapped because no one else wants to live here. To protect

our homes and our health, we've got no choice but to ban fracking."

To get on the ballot, fracking-ban supporters must gather 571 signatures within 180 days. In the first two hours of collecting signatures, they are already one-third of the way there.

Hundreds of municipalities across the country have passed bans or moratoriums on fracking, but none with the extent of fracking already occurring as Denton. There are more than 270 active gas wells within the city limits of Denton. Only new operations would be banned by this initiative, active wells would keep operating.



[Read the [press release](#)]

## Tell Infinito Gold: Respect democracy, drop the lawsuit



Canadian mining company Infinito Gold wants to build the Las Crucitas mine in Costa Rica's Cerros Crucitas: a pristine, protected forest area that is home to several endangered species. The mine would threaten the San Juan River watershed with contamination by cyanide and heavy metals.

Infinito Gold is suing the Costa Rican government in the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

That's because Costa Rica has blocked the mine. 75% of the population oppose Infinito's proposal. The country's courts, including the Supreme Court, blocked it. And in 2011, the country reinstated its national ban on all open-pit mining.

Unfortunately, Infinito's lawsuit is part of a pattern. Mining companies have increasingly been suing countries in a publicly inaccessible World Bank court, or other secret tribunals, to overturn host country legal decisions.

[Take action: [Tell Infinito Gold CEO John Morgan to respect community will and national law.](#)]



[Sign the pledge](#) to end dirty gold mining practices.

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**#41290**

Earthworks is proud to be a member of EarthShare and

the Combined Federal Campaign!

[Drop the suit against Costa Rica for opposing your irresponsible mine proposal!](#)

## Thanks for sharing your love on Valentine's Day

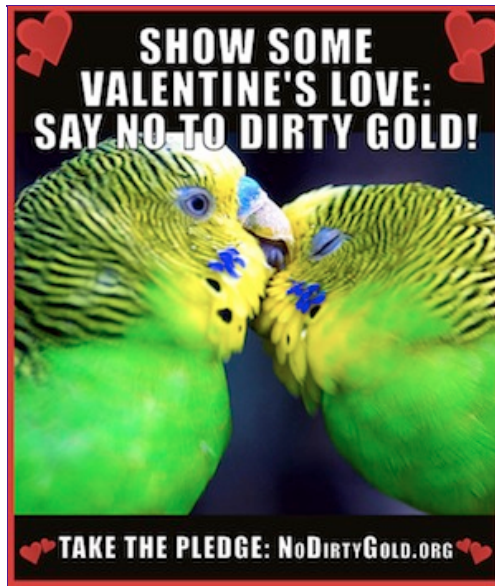
The No Dirty Gold celebrated Valentine's Day this year with some cute critters -- [check them out here](#).

In addition to being adorable, we showcased these animals because they live in areas threatened by destructive mining.

As a big day for jewelry purchases, NDG was also featured in some great media that examined the impacts of dirty gold and explored more responsible alternatives, such as [Smithsonian Magazine](#) and [Grist](#).

Whether you're a new or ongoing signer of the [No Dirty Gold pledge](#), we thank you for your commitment to stopping dirty gold!

[Share the memes on Facebook [here](#)]



## How Fracking Increases California's Earthquake Risk

Oil companies are increasing California's earthquake risk by injecting billions of gallons of oil and gas wastewater a year into hundreds of disposal wells near active faults around Los Angeles, Bakersfield and other major cities, according to a new report: [On Shaky Ground: Fracking, Acidizing, and Increased Earthquake Risk in California](#).

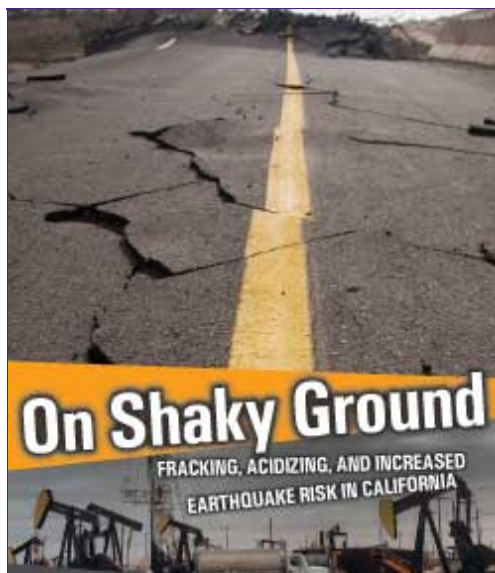
Co-authored by Earthworks, the Center for Biological Diversity and Clean Water Action with some serious mapping help from the FracTracker Alliance, *Shaky Ground* demonstrates that a fracking boom would worsen the danger of earthquakes by producing almost 9 trillion gallons of contaminated wastewater that would need to be injected underground for disposal.

Such a spike could expose California to a surge in damaging earthquakes like those seen in Oklahoma, Texas, and other states experiencing rapidly increased fracking and wastewater production.

Unfortunately, California regulators have ignored the issue, despite recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Because of research and knowledge gaps (and willful blindness by state regulators), it is impossible to protect Californians from fracking-induced quakes. Only a moratorium on fracking will do the job.

[Visit the [Shaky Ground website](#), including an interactive map tool [here](#)]





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