



The Master of Prunedale Grange #388, Ed Mitchell, will be presenting Resolution # 2015 - 002, passed by the California State Grange, through the Labor & Judiciary Committee at the 140th California State Grange Convention.

To quote Brother Mitchell:

"Tonight I will publicly announce that the State Grange passed a resolution against fracking in Monterey's Salad Bowl of the World. We continue our work at the fourth degree level to guard farmlands, farms, farmers, farm workers and the small businesses that thrive because of farming.

**We wish him all the luck and best wished in his presentation!**

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## Ban enhanced fracking and fracking waste disposal in the Salad Bowl of the World

WHEREAS: America has experienced a boom in hydraulic fracking and acid injection fracking that permanently pollutes huge amounts of potable water with cancer causing chemicals that are disposed of by injecting the waste below or near local aquifers;

WHEREAS: Last summer, officials of the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) admitted that for years they violated federal law by inadvertently allowing oil companies to inject wastewater — from fracking and other oil production operations — into hundreds of disposal wells in “protected aquifers”;

WHEREAS: The federal Environmental Protection Agency has called the state's errors "shocking" and said California's oil field wastewater injection program does not comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

WHEREAS: In March 2015, as reported by the LA Times, California Senators held hearings regarding the failure to comply with federal law by California's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources and by the state Water Resources Control Board, characterizing longstanding agency management of injected fracking waste as corrupt and inept.

WHEREAS: The fracking industry is expanding across California's agriculture areas including Fresno, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Benito counties and is lobbying for conduct unrestricted fracking in Monterey County;

WHEREAS: The Salinas Valley is the Salad Bowl of the World and a highly productive and profitable agriculture area in California that relies on a single precious source of water, the Salinas River, to remain productive;

WHEREAS: If the single source of water for the agriculture and vintner industries in the Salinas Valley was polluted by fracking operations or by fracking waste, that pollution could cause long-term devastating economic impact on the county, on the central coast, and on the California state economy;

WHEREAS: The Salinas Valley water basin has been over drafted for years, is not now sustainable, and must be returned to a sustainable condition as required by the 2015 California State Groundwater Sustainability Act;

WHEREAS: The United States Geological Survey has reported that "...injection of fracking wastewater into the subsurface can cause earthquakes that are large enough to be felt and may cause damage. ... Of the case histories, for which there is a scientific consensus that an injection operation induced earthquakes, the largest are magnitude 5. However, there is no conclusive example linking injection operations to triggering of major earthquakes, however we cannot eliminate this possibility."

WHEREAS: On March 4, 2015 the Californian reported that the "San Andreas Fault could deliver wallop in Salinas area" because it is locking up in the Parkfield area of Monterey County by storing almost half an inch of stress per year, enough to cause a magnitude 6 earthquake, according to findings released in the scientific journal Geophysical Research Letters.

WHEREAS: Monterey County is the most seismically active oil region in America and has the San Andreas Fault running the north-south length of the county. Thus, the likelihood of underground fracking waste leaking into local water sources is

more likely in this valley than anywhere else for two reasons. Toxic underground waste would be subject to naturally occurring earthquakes at a level not seen in other areas. Plus, injecting fracking waste at high pressure into the Salinas Valley water basin would increase underground pressure gradients that might increase the number or size of earthquakes in the county, hence: allowing industrial-level consumption of water by permitting new enhanced extraction fracking wells within the Salinas Valley water basin would be detrimental to returning the basin to a sustainable condition, would directly compete with existing agriculture/vintner water use, and would likely constrain agriculture operations in the valley. Additionally, allowing storage of millions of gallons of toxic fracking waste under or near water aquifers in the water basin would unnecessarily create a huge risk of pollution to the single source of water within the valley and create an unacceptable risk to the local, Central Coast, and California economies; therefore be it

RESOLVED The California State Grange has determined that enhanced extraction by hydraulic fracking or by acid injection is too dangerous to the local environment and local economy and therefore fracking operations cannot be permitted in Monterey County;  
and be it further

RESOLVED The California State Grange has determined that storage of enhanced fracking waste in injection wells is too dangerous a risk to the Salinas Valley water basin and cannot be permitted in Monterey County; and be it further

RESOLVED The California State Grange opposes the use of hydraulic fracking in Monterey County.