
From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Heather Lewis
Subject: 12:30? FW: community briefing re California v Exxon

Heather, are you available at 12:30 for the pre-briefing check-in? No worries if not. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Many thanks,

Alyssa

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<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

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Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my
colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but
know that you and others are caught up in the
mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this
would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and
start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested
in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next
week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-
profits, and other members of the climate,
environment, and justice communities. We'd love to
have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from
your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss
why the state brought the suit, the specific claims,
and how others can support as the case moves
forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested
and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

READ IN APP The state of California
just launched a game-
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the most

populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin

Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American

Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use of
fossil fuel products”
while “misrepresenting
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,
climate action was
delayed for decades, the
case argues, and
Californians now face a
regular onslaught of
disasters — from deadly
wildfires and droughts
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and their
families, communities,
and small businesses
should not have to bear
all the costs of climate
change alone,” reads the
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and will
spend to recover from
such disasters. “This
lawsuit seeks to hold
those companies
accountable for the lies
they have told and the

damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions

that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in

finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light”

cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

California’s case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC.

“We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an

increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year's midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York City.*

**It's a tipping point for
the legal fight for
climate accountability.**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court cleared
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial in
state courts. On Sunday,
Bonta told reporters that
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to get
to where we want to go,
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempts
to delay and derail the
cases have persistently
failed, and now
California's in the

game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big Oil
to come.

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From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Alyssa Johl
Subject: Accepted: Invitation: CCI+Jessica+Heather @ Wed Nov 8, 2023 12:30pm - 1pm (EST)
(heather.lewis@doj.ca.gov)

From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 9:03 AM
To: iyla@climateintegrity.org
Subject: Accepted: Invitation: Prep call: Climate lawsuit public briefing @ Mon Oct 16, 2023 4pm - 4:30pm (EDT) (heather.lewis@doj.ca.gov)

From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:29 AM
To: iyla@climateintegrity.org
Subject: Accepted: Updated invitation: Prep call: Climate lawsuit public briefing @ Mon Oct 16, 2023 3:30pm - 4pm (EDT) (heather.lewis@doj.ca.gov)

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Heather Lewis; Iyla Shornstein
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

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Many thanks,
Alyssa

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Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

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Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
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Many thanks,

Alyssa

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Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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ExxonKnews

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18



READ IN APP

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).



Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their

own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

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But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.



Chevron representatives offered details on hydrogen fueling station capabilities at the Richmond Road to Zero Day.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

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According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the

company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run are clearly embracing this issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. "We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies."

It's the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.



A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Governor Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: "These fossil fuel companies bear responsibility."

fyi

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:23 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: AOC: "These fossil fuel companies bear responsibility."

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IN THE NEWS

CENTER FOR
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**DOJ should take an "honest look" at Big Oil's lies,
Congress members say**

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
House Representative, NY-14



In the wake of more climate disasters fueled by Big Oil's decades-long deception, the calls for accountability are growing louder.

During a conversation with Senator Bernie Sanders last night, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse said the time was right for the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate and potentially prosecute major oil and gas companies for lying about their products' role in the climate crisis.

"These fossil fuel companies bear responsibility for what they have done. And it will be and should be the power of a court to compel them to do so," said Ocasio-Cortez.

[Watch their comments and read our blog post here.](#)

READ HERE

Sincerely,

Mike Meno
Communications Director
Center for Climate Integrity

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from The Center for Climate Integrity, please [click here](#).

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: A \$15 billion climate bill in Pennsylvania

fyi

From: lyla at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 7:23 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: A \$15 billion climate bill in Pennsylvania

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NEW REPORT



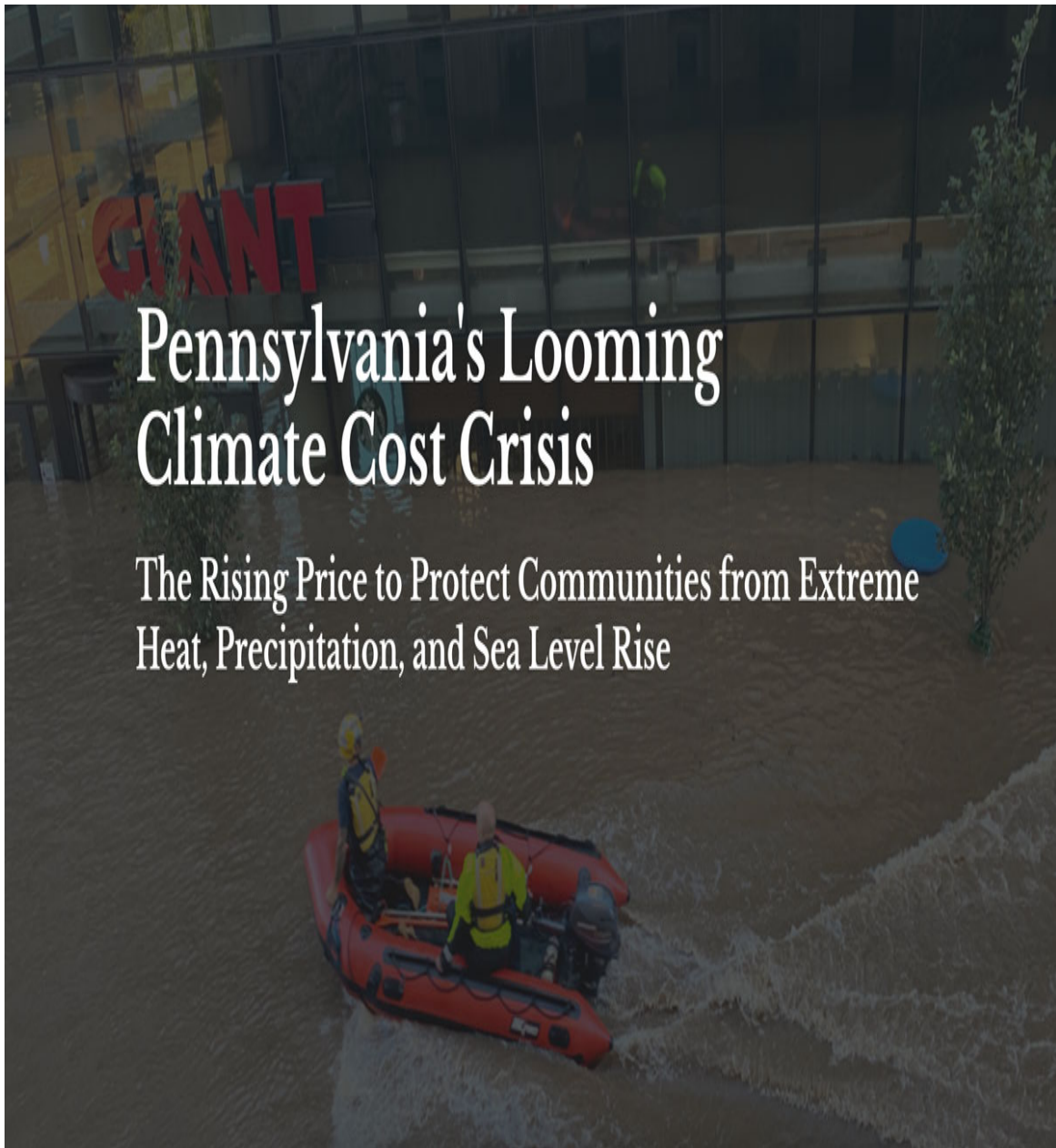
Pennsylvania's Looming Climate Cost Crisis:

The Rising Price to Protect Communities from Extreme Heat, Precipitation, and Sea Level Rise

[READ REPORT HERE](#)

How much will it cost to protect Pennsylvania communities from the worsening impacts of climate change? At least \$15.47 billion by 2040.

That's the finding of CCI's latest study, "[Pennsylvania's Looming Climate Cost Crisis: The Rising Price to Protect Communities from Extreme Heat, Precipitation, and Sea Level Rise](#)," which we're releasing today in collaboration with Resilient Analytics and Scioto Analysis.



Right now, taxpayers are on the hook for these climate adaptation costs — but they shouldn't have to be. We're in a climate crisis because Big Oil companies lied about their products for decades. A new poll finds that the vast majority of Pennsylvania voters agree that these polluters should pay their fair share.

[Read about the study here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest efforts to make polluters pay.

SHARE REPORT

Sincerely,

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:30 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: A watershed moment for the fight against Big Oil

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:02 PM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: A watershed moment for the fight against Big Oil

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IN THE NEWS



California's lawsuit against Big Oil is a major tipping point

Big news! California is suing ExxonMobil, Chevron, and other oil majors for decades of climate lies that have fueled wildfires, droughts, and other worsening climate disasters in the state.

This lawsuit can help protect residents who are experiencing the hardships of the climate crisis first-hand by making sure that polluters, not communities, pay to clean up Big Oil's mess.

BREAKING

California Sues Big Oil

California Governor Gavin Newsom said the state's lawsuit could "move the needle" for climate accountability and he and Attorney General Rob Bonta hope more communities follow suit.

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia

Staff Writer, Center for Climate Integrity

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:49 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: A win for two more climate accountability lawsuits!

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:14 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: A win for two more climate accountability lawsuits!

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IN THE NEWS



**In a win for Delaware and Hoboken, Supreme Court rejects
Big Oil again**



In yet another victory for communities fighting to hold Big Oil accountable, the U.S. Supreme Court has cleared the way for two more climate lawsuits against fossil fuel companies to move toward trial in state court.

½

The State of Delaware and Hoboken, New Jersey, are now one step closer to presenting evidence in court that Big Oil companies knowingly fueled the climate crisis and should have to pay for the resulting damages.

[READ HERE](#)

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Biden administration backs lawsuits against Big Oil

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:40 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Biden administration backs lawsuits against Big Oil

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BREAKING NEWS!



[READ THE BLOG](#)

[In a major development for climate accountability](#), the Biden administration has finally fulfilled a campaign pledge to “strategically support” climate lawsuits against polluters.

The U.S. Department of Justice, which sided with Big Oil under the Trump administration, threw its support behind three Colorado communities that are seeking to put ExxonMobil and Suncor Energy on trial for their climate deception and the resulting costs.

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Big Oil is doubling down on climate destruction

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 6:43 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Big Oil is doubling down on climate destruction

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IN THE NEWS



Big Oil is doubling down on climate destruction

As the need to transition off fossil fuels becomes more urgent than ever, ExxonMobil and Chevron spent billions this month to dramatically increase their oil production, while Shell cut 200 clean energy jobs.

It's clearer than ever that Big Oil companies are doubling down on the fossil fuels driving the climate crisis, while they continue to mislead the public about the harm they are causing.



Communities around the nation are seeing the industry's ongoing deception for what it is and taking Big Oil companies to court to make them pay for their climate lies.

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Big Oil is fighting climate solutions

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 6:52 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Big Oil is fighting climate solutions

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IN THE NEWS



Al Gore: Big Oil is actively fighting climate solutions

Oil companies are simultaneously claiming to be dedicated to climate solutions while expanding oil and gas production and fighting the transition to clean energy, climate activist and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore argued in a recent TED talk.

Fossil fuel giants have claimed to be in alignment with the Paris Agreement — which demands a significant reduction in emissions by 2030 — while simultaneously expanding their fossil fuel production, walking back renewable energy commitments, and touting non-viable carbon capture technology as a fix-all solution.



“The fossil fuel industry has captured this process and is slowing it down,” Gore said, “and we need to do something about it.”

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 5:28 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Big Oil is fighting to avoid evidence of their climate deception

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 11:17 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Big Oil is fighting to avoid evidence of their climate deception

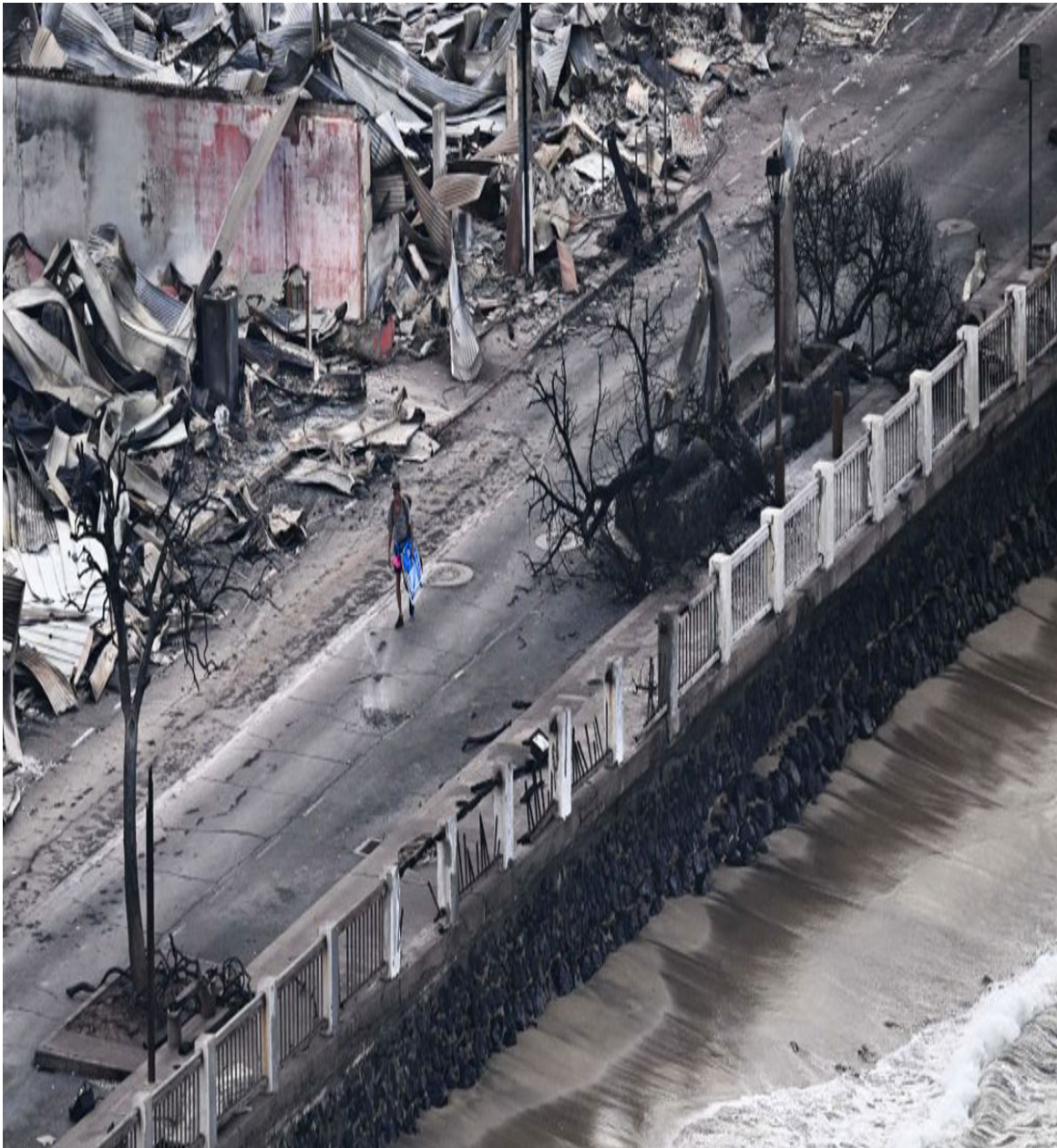
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IN THE NEWS



Big Oil doesn't want Hawaiians to get their day in court

In the wake of the deadly Maui wildfires, a lawyer for Big Oil this week argued that oil companies shouldn't have to face the evidence of their climate deception in Hawai'i state court.



Following a previous lower court ruling in favor of local communities, the Hawai'i Supreme Court heard arguments this week on whether Honolulu's lawsuit against oil companies for knowingly lying about the climate crisis should be allowed to move forward.

"Think of how Hawai'i would've been different if [oil companies] had stood up 50 years ago and said, 'If you use our products unabated, your islands are going to be destroyed,'" Victor Sher, the lawyer representing Honolulu, said in his argument to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. "They've deprived these public entities of the opportunity to make a choice and control their future."

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Big Oil is spreading climate denial at COP28

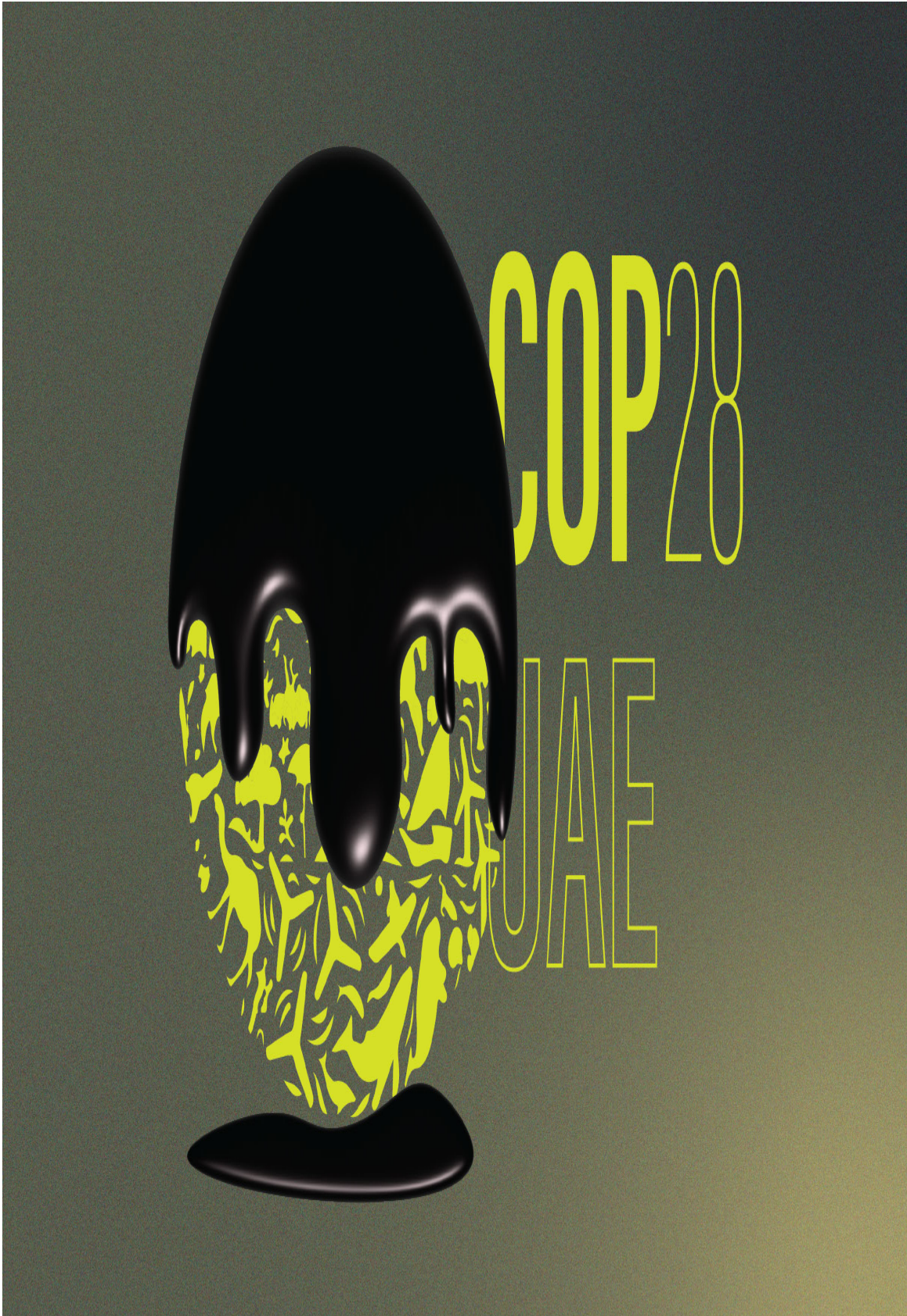
From: Emily at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 10:19 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Big Oil is spreading climate denial at COP28

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IN THE NEWS



Representatives from around the world are at COP28, the U.N. climate change conference in Dubai this week, including a record number of fossil fuel lobbyists. Once again, Big Oil is using its political might to protect industry profits and undermine the urgent need for climate action.



[Emily Sanders of ExxonKnews spoke to experts and took a closer look at what Big Oil — and ExxonMobil in particular — is trying to accomplish at COP28.](#)

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 1:11 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Big Oil sued for fueling the 2021 heat dome

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 6:30 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Big Oil sued for fueling the 2021 heat dome

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IN THE NEWS



Multnomah County, Oregon, joins the fight to make Big Oil pay

A person with a backpack is walking on a grassy hill in the foreground. In the background, a city skyline is visible, completely obscured by a thick, orange-brown haze that fills the sky and the air around the buildings. The overall tone is somber and urgent.

BREAKING

Oregon County Sues Big Oil

Two years ago, a deadly heat dome that scientists say was “virtually impossible without human-caused climate change” wreaked havoc across the Pacific Northwest.

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Calls for climate accountability surge after SCOTUS decision

fyi

From: lyla at Center for Climate Accountability <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:55 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Calls for climate accountability surge after SCOTUS decision

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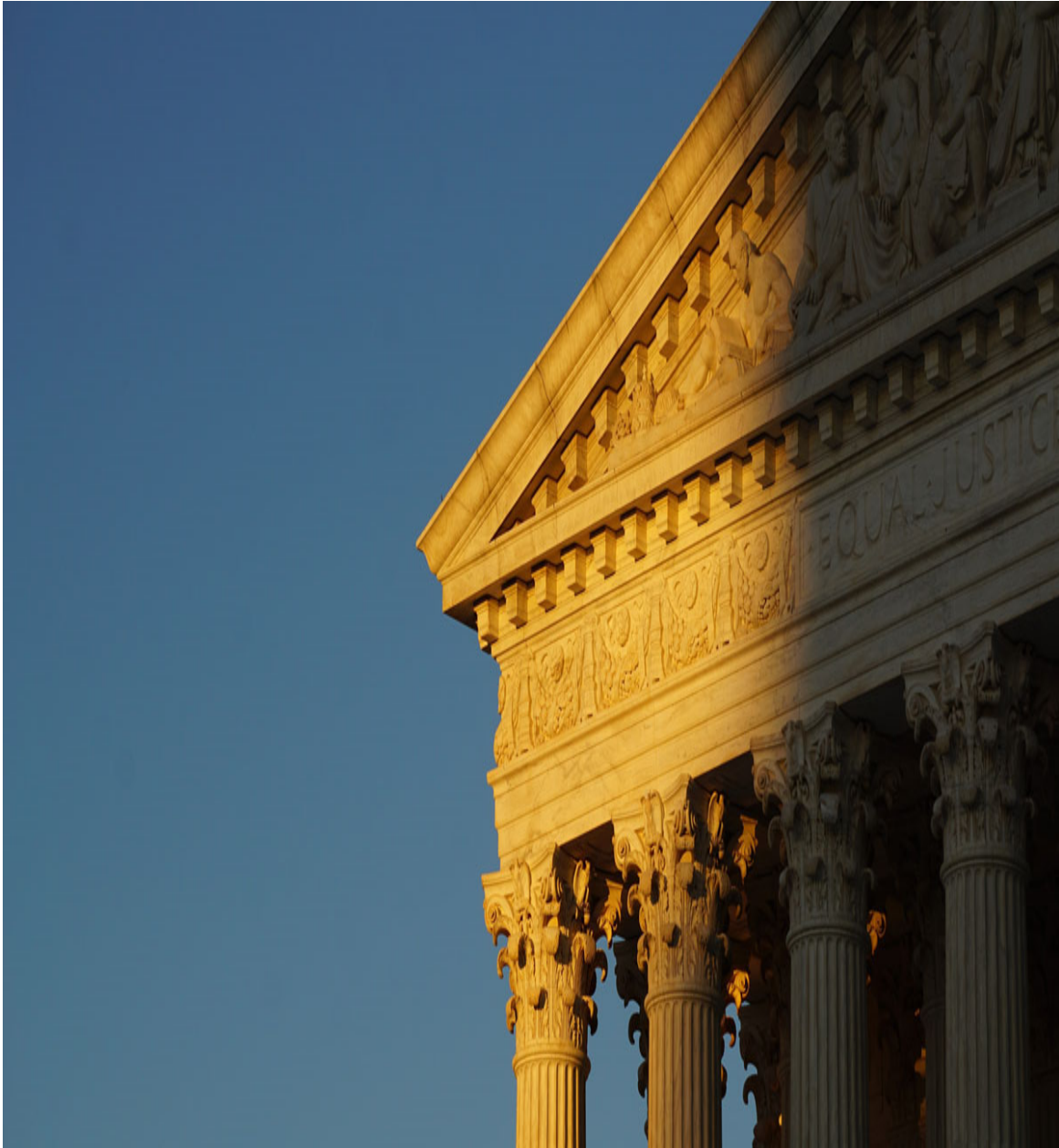
IN THE NEWS



After Supreme Court decision, calls for climate accountability surge

Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has cleared a path for climate accountability lawsuits against Big Oil companies to proceed in state courts, the growing momentum of these cases is undeniable.

The high court's ruling has already triggered calls across the country for more communities to join the fight to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for their climate lies and file their own lawsuits to make polluters pay their fair share.



As Chicago Alderman [Matt Martin](#) put it, “History, justice and the law are all on our side. The only question is whether Chicago has the political will to take action.”

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

Sincerely,

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:15 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Charleston, SC, delivers another blow to Big Oil

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:52 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Charleston, SC, delivers another blow to Big Oil

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IN THE NEWS



Charleston scores latest court victory against Big Oil

Great news! Charleston, South Carolina's lawsuit against fossil fuel giants can move forward in state court after a federal judge rejected Big Oil's efforts to escape accountability.



In 2020, Charleston became the first city in the U.S. South to sue oil majors for their decades of climate deception and make polluters pay for their environmental destruction.

Now, thanks to this week's ruling, Charleston joins the growing ranks of communities that are moving closer to their day in court against Big Oil.

Learn more in our [blog post](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:36 AM
To: Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: community briefing re California v Exxon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Heather, can you please let the CA locals know about the webinar and share this link if they want to register? Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon

- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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attachments
that appear
suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

**EXTERNAL
EMAIL:** This
message
was sent
from
outside DOJ.

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not click
links or
open
attachments
that appear
suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest

nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies on
earth.

California's size and
political influence —
and its position as the
first major oil producing
state to take the industry
to court — give the
lawsuit distinction as
likely the most powerful
action to date to hold
Big Oil companies
accountable for lying
about their products'
role in climate change.
The Golden State's
action could very likely
open the floodgates for
other states that might
have been waiting to
make their own moves;
while Attorney General
Rob Bonta is the ninth
attorney general to sue
Big Oil, 16 attorneys
general signed on to the
[latest legal brief](#) in
support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin
Newsom indicated as

Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of

“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use of
fossil fuel products”
while “misrepresenting
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,
climate action was
delayed for decades, the
case argues, and
Californians now face a
regular onslaught of
disasters — from deadly
wildfires and droughts
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and their
families, communities,
and small businesses
should not have to bear
all the costs of climate
change alone,” reads the
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and will
spend to recover from
such disasters. “This
lawsuit seeks to hold
those companies
accountable for the lies
they have told and the

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry.

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions

oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state's law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as "low carbon," "emissions-reducing," "clean" and/or "green," just as tobacco companies promoted "low-tar" or "light" cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as

cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year's midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York City*

**It's a tipping point for
the legal fight for
climate accountability**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court cleared
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial in
state courts. On Sunday
Bonta told reporters that
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to get
to where we want to go
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempts
to delay and derail the
cases have persistently
failed, and now
California's in the

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 12:40 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Congress urges DOJ to investigate Big Oil, once again

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 10:28 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Congress urges DOJ to investigate Big Oil, once again

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IN THE NEWS



Congress members call for DOJ action against Big Oil

Nearly two dozen members of Congress are calling for the U.S. Department of Justice to take action against oil companies for their decades of climate deception.

In two letters sent in the past week, Democratic House and Senate members urged the DOJ to either investigate or sue Exxon, Shell, and other oil majors for violating fraud, racketeering, and other federal laws.



“The available evidence that these companies lied — and continue to lie — to the public about their central role in exacerbating the climate crisis demands further investigation,”

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Connecticut gets closer to putting Exxon on trial

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 8:02 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Connecticut gets closer to putting Exxon on trial

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IN THE NEWS



Connecticut gets closer to putting Exxon on trial

Another victory! Connecticut is one step closer to putting ExxonMobil on trial for its climate lies after a federal appeals court ruled the state's lawsuit can proceed toward trial in state court.



The Second Circuit was “wholly unpersuaded” by Exxon’s arguments to escape accountability, making it the seventh appeals court in the nation to rule that climate accountability lawsuits filed in state court should proceed there.

“Our case is simple and strong — ExxonMobil amassed billions of dollars in profits off a decades-long campaign of lies, and they must be held accountable,” Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said.

[Read our full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Evidence of Exxon's lies is piling up

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

fyi

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:54 PM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Evidence of Exxon's lies is piling up

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IN THE NEWS



New evidence of Exxon's lies will boost accountability efforts

ExxonMobil executives continued to undermine climate science, obscure the dangers of fossil fuels, and lie about the company's commitment to solutions for years after publicly acknowledging the reality of climate change, according to new reporting today.



The Wall Street Journal published new evidence of Exxon's decades-long climate deception as the oil giant faces a growing wave of lawsuits seeking to hold the company accountable.

"As communities pay an ever-greater price for our worsening climate crisis, it's more clear than ever that Exxon must be held accountable to pay for the harm it has caused," CCI's Richard Wiles said.

Read our [full explainer](#) here, and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 12:40 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Exposing Big Oil's Playbook

FYI – please let me know if you would rather I didn't forward these emails to you. Thanks, Sonia

From: Abbey at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:01 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Exposing Big Oil's Playbook

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NEW FROM CCI

**CENTER FOR
CLIMATE
INTEGRITY**

Big Oil's PLAYBOOK

1965

FRANK IKARD, PRESIDENT
AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

"We must not permit the job ahead of us ... to become obscured by rash statements and fanciful notions."



Big Oil has used the same playbook to stall climate action for nearly 60 years: cast doubt on the science to make action look premature.

Climate change: 1 degree of uncertainty

Climate change: 1 degree of uncertainty

Climate change: a prudent approach

Climate change: a prudent approach

Science: what we know and don't know



Stop, look and listen before we leap

Global Climate Change

Stop, look and listen before we leap

Nearly 60 years ago, Big Oil's stance on the energy transition was to proceed with caution and avoid "rash" decisions, despite the industry's accurate knowledge of the science.

1981

HENRY SHAW,
EXXON RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

"There is sufficient time to study the problem before corrective action is required. ... This permits time for an orderly transition to non-fossil fuel technologies should restrictions on fossil fuel use be deemed necessary."

Two decades later, Exxon continued the deception — urging that there was still time for an "orderly transition" from fossil fuels.

2023

Today, BP is still peddling the same narrative.

CNBC

BP CEO defends spending plans as climate protesters block entrance to London energy conference

"[The energy] transition has got to be orderly. ... We need to invest in the energy transition and—not or—we need to invest in today's energy system, which is predominantly an oil and gas system."

BERNARD LOONEY
CEO, BP

It's extremely clear: Big Oil's decades-long deception campaign delays action as their products fuel the climate crisis.

IT'S TIME TO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE.



From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Honolulu's climate lawsuit is closer than ever to trial

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 7:48 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Honolulu's climate lawsuit is closer than ever to trial

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IN THE NEWS



Honolulu's climate lawsuit can move forward to trial after court rejects Big Oil arguments

Honolulu's lawsuit to make oil giants pay for climate damages they knowingly caused is heading toward trial after the Supreme Court of Hawai'i rejected Big Oil's latest attempts to escape accountability.

A tall palm tree stands against a sky with a soft sunset gradient. The bottom portion of the image is a solid red gradient, which serves as a background for the white text.

Honolulu climate
case against Big Oil
moves toward trial.

From extended droughts to coastal erosion, Honolulu communities are paying the price for fossil-fueled climate change, and they deserve their day in court to hold climate polluters accountable.

"Honolulu's case is now one of the most important climate lawsuits in the country, if not the world," said CCI Managing Attorney Corey Riday-White. "We're one giant step closer to that evidence getting in front of a jury tasked with deciding whether these polluters are liable for billions in climate damages."

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

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Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia

Staff Writer, Center for Climate Integrity

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 10:34 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Meet Big Oil's latest greenwashing strategy

FYI

From: Emily at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:37 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Meet Big Oil's latest greenwashing strategy

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NEW FROM CCI



The disturbing reports on plastic pollution just keep coming: toxic plastic waste is filling up our oceans, our landfills, and even our bodies.

But if you've seen a recent surge of ads from the companies that produce plastic, you might be forgiven for thinking they're working on solutions to the problem.



[READ EXXONKNEWS](#)

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Minnesota wins key ruling against Big Oil!

fyi

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 8:41 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Minnesota wins key ruling against Big Oil!

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IN THE NEWS



Minnesota wins key ruling in its fight to hold Big Oil accountable for climate lies

Minnesota's climate fraud lawsuit against ExxonMobil, Koch Industries, and the American Petroleum Institute just won a key victory. In a unanimous ruling, a federal appeals court agreed that the case could proceed in state court, where it was filed.

After years of Big Oil's delay tactics, the people of Minnesota are one step closer to putting these polluters on trial.



VICTORY!

Minnesota's Climate Lawsuit Can Proceed in State Court, Appeals Court Rules

CENTER FOR
CLIMATE
INTEGRITY

Big Oil companies have fought relentlessly to avoid facing the evidence of their climate fraud in state court, but once again judges have unanimously rejected their arguments.

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: San Francisco and Oakland communities move closer to putting Big Oil on trial

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:47 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: San Francisco and Oakland communities move closer to putting Big Oil on trial

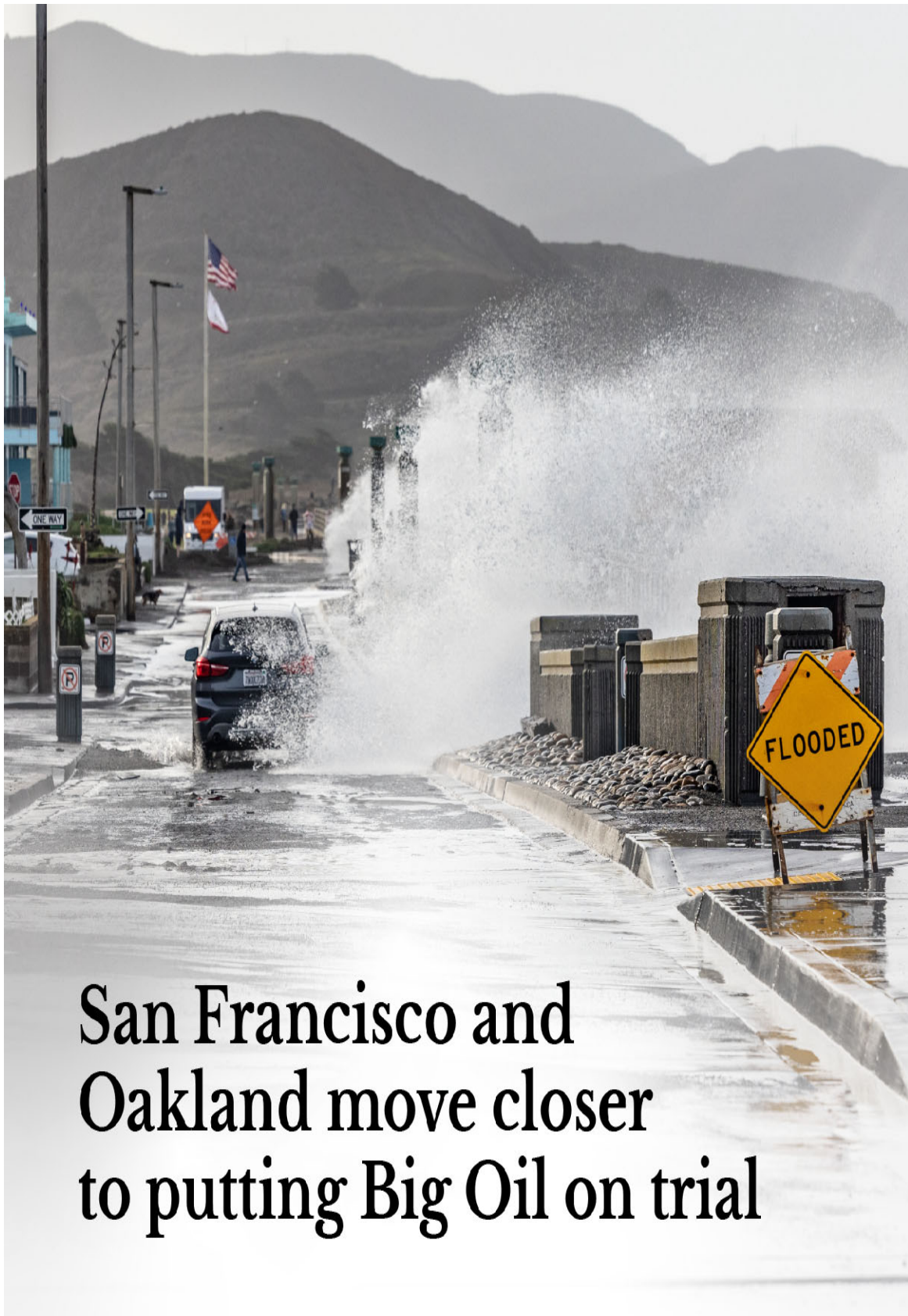
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IN THE NEWS



San Francisco and Oakland move closer to putting Big Oil on trial

Two of California's biggest cities are one step closer to putting Big Oil companies on trial for their climate lies after a federal appeals court ruled this week that climate lawsuits from San Francisco and Oakland can move forward in state court, where they were originally filed.



San Francisco and Oakland move closer to putting Big Oil on trial

This ruling is the latest in a long line of victories for communities fighting in court to make fossil fuel companies pay for their climate deception and the damage they've caused.

"As we witness climate catastrophes every day," said Oakland City Attorney Barbara J. Parker following the ruling, "it is imperative that fossil fuel companies be held accountable for the damages their misrepresentations have caused."

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

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Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia
Staff Writer, Center for Climate Integrity

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: The Maui fires underscore the importance of climate accountability

fyi

From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 10:13 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: The Maui fires underscore the importance of climate accountability

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IN THE NEWS



Big Oil fueled Maui's devastating wildfires

Devastating fires in Maui engulfed the historic town of Lahaina this week, forcing mass evacuations, and killing at least 55 people. While the wildfire event is creating unprecedented damage to the island, the increasing scale of climate disasters is not a surprise to Maui leaders and residents who have borne the brunt of worsening climate impacts for years.



Maui County officials [sued](#) Exxon, Shell, Chevron, and other oil giants in 2020 for lying about the climate damages they knew their products would cause, including “increased frequency, intensity, and destructive force of wildfires.”

Maui residents are currently suffering mass evacuations, the loss of loved ones and homes, and cultural and economic destruction that will be felt for years to come. Maui communities have already paid more than enough; it's time for Big Oil to stand trial for their climate deception.

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

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Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia
Staff Writer, Center for Climate Integrity

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: The Supreme Court strikes a blow to Big Oil

fyi

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:25 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: The Supreme Court strikes a blow to Big Oil

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IN THE NEWS



Supreme Court clears path to trial for climate accountability lawsuits against Big Oil

In a major victory for holding fossil fuel companies accountable for their climate lies, the U.S. Supreme Court today declined to hear Big Oil's pleas to avoid facing the evidence of their deception in state court.

The high court's action clears the way for dozens of lawsuits that state and local governments have brought against fossil fuel companies to continue advancing toward trial.

A photograph of the Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., featuring its iconic neoclassical architecture with large columns and a pediment. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. A large red rectangle in the upper left contains the word "VICTORY!" in white. Another large red rectangle in the center contains the headline "Supreme Court Allows Climate Lawsuits Against Big Oil to Go Forward" in white. A small logo for the Center for Climate Integrity is in the bottom right.

VICTORY!

Supreme Court Allows
Climate Lawsuits Against
Big Oil to Go Forward

CENTER FOR
CLIMATE
INTEGRITY

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 1:28 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: Voters want lying polluters to pay for climate costs

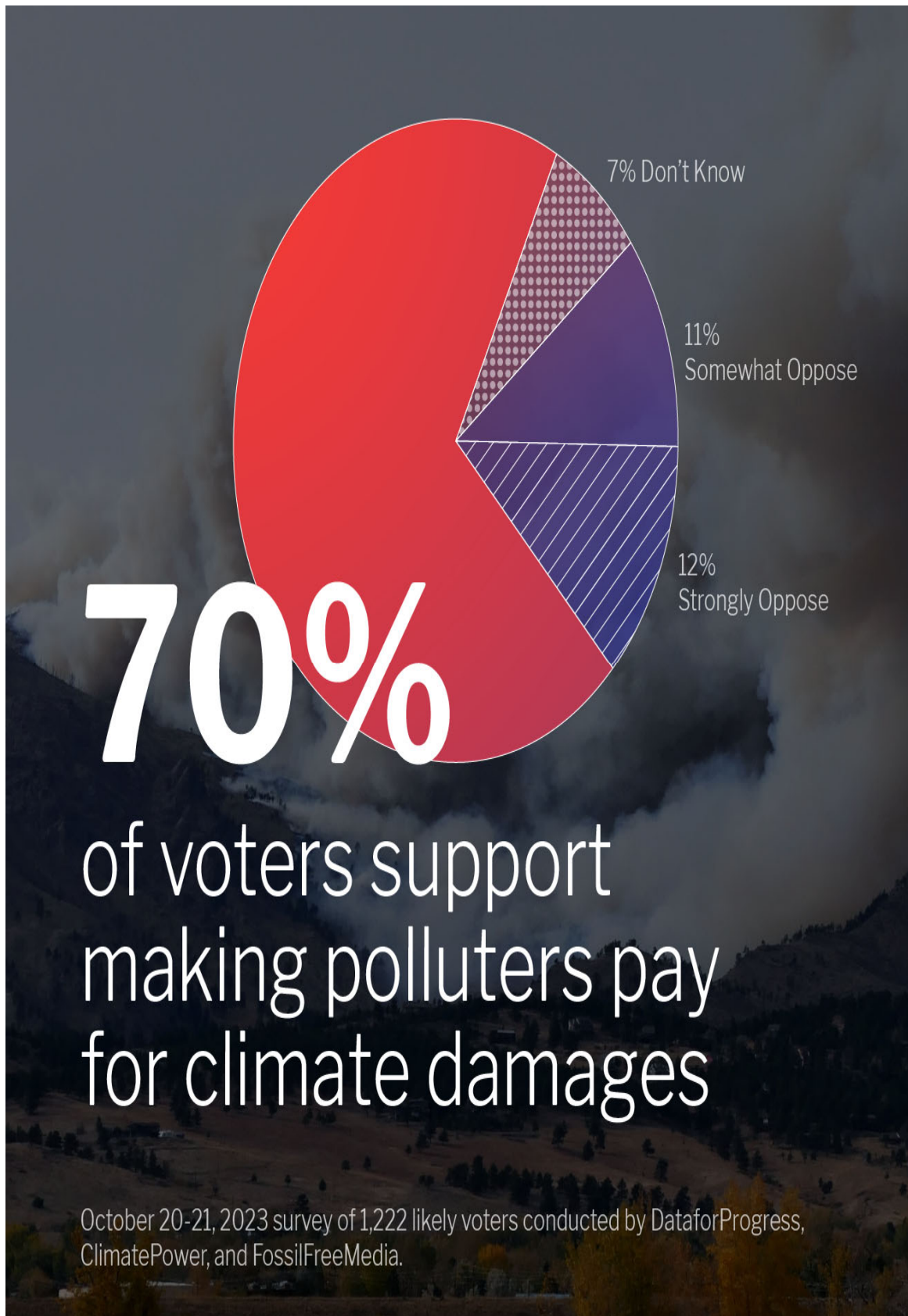
From: Isabella at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 6:20 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Voters want lying polluters to pay for climate costs

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IN THE NEWS



A new nationwide poll confirms yet again that voters across the political spectrum overwhelmingly support making major polluters pay their fair share of climate costs they have created — especially when voters learn about Big Oil's decades of climate deception.



The survey found that 70% of likely voters support making fossil fuel companies pay for climate damages like wildfires, droughts, and floods. When respondents were told how oil

and gas companies lied to the public for decades about how their product hurts the climate, support for making polluters pay jumped to 77%.

"This overwhelming support should send a clear message to elected officials that holding Big Oil accountable is not just the right thing to do — it's also good politics," said CCI President Richard Wiles.

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

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Sincerely,

Isabella Garcia

Staff Writer, Center for Climate Integrity

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From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: We're supporting D.C.'s efforts to hold Big Oil accountable

fyi

From: Mike at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:35 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: We're supporting D.C.'s efforts to hold Big Oil accountable

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IN THE NEWS



Big Oil companies have spent decades lying about their role in the climate crisis — and it's time they face the evidence of their deception in court.

That's what we and leading scholars of climate disinformation argued in a recent legal brief that supports the District of Columbia's efforts to put ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, and BP on trial for their climate lies.



Our brief outlined the oil industry’s extensive and ongoing history of climate deception, including new evidence uncovered by a recent congressional investigation into the four companies D.C. is seeking to hold accountable.

Read our [full blog post here](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

[READ HERE](#)

Sincerely,

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: What Big Oil and the mafia have in common

From: Emily at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 10:08 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: What Big Oil and the mafia have in common

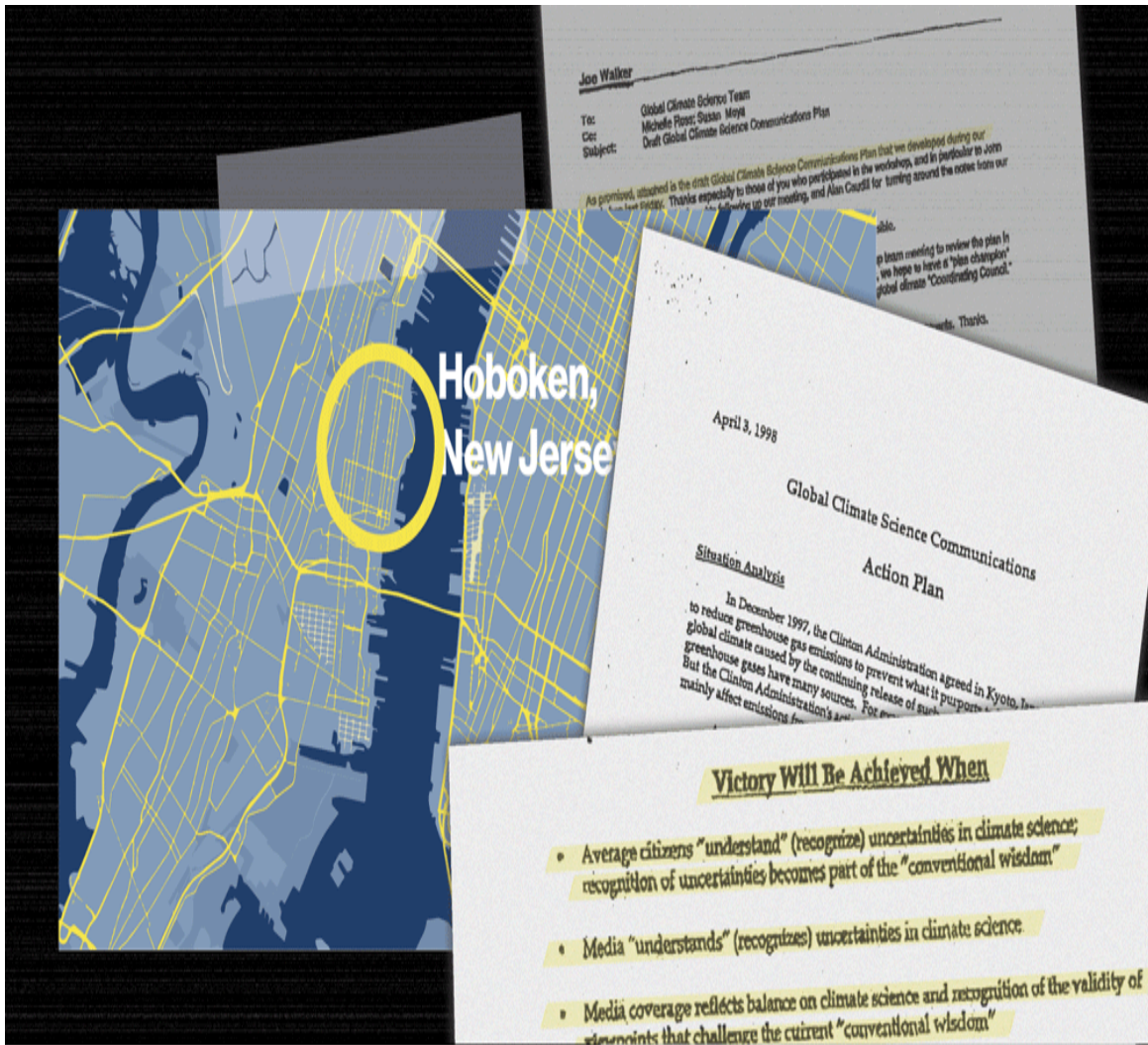
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IN THE NEWS



Hoboken brings RICO charges against Big Oil

As evidence of fossil fuel companies' coordinated climate deception grows by the day, communities are employing a new legal tool to hold them accountable.



RICO — the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act — has notoriously been used to take on organized crime. But now communities in Puerto Rico and New Jersey are using those same state and federal racketeering laws to sue Big Oil.

Hoboken, New Jersey, recently added a new RICO claim to its climate accountability lawsuit, charging major fossil fuel companies with conspiring together to defraud the public about the harms they knew their products would cause.

Learn more in [ExxonNews](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more climate accountability news.

READ HERE

Sincerely,

Emily Sanders

From: SoniaF Ramos
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 4:26 PM
To: Erin Ganahl; Heather Lewis
Subject: FW: What I learned in Louisiana

fyi

From: Emily at Center for Climate Integrity <info@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 11:27 AM
To: SoniaF Ramos <SoniaF.Ramos@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: What I learned in Louisiana

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Hi friends,

My name is [Emily Sanders](#), and I'm editorial lead here at the Center for Climate Integrity where I write [ExxonKnews](#), a newsletter covering the fossil fuel industry's role in the climate crisis and efforts to hold them accountable.



Subject: Invitation: Hold for CA AGO public briefing @ Wed Oct 18, 2023 3pm - 4pm (EDT)
(heather.lewis@doj.ca.gov)

Start: Wed 10/18/2023 12:00 PM
End: Wed 10/18/2023 1:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: iyla@climateintegrity.org

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When

Wednesday Oct 18, 2023 · 3pm – 4pm (Eastern Time - New York)

Guests

iyla@climateintegrity.org - organizer
mlegendre.consulting@gmail.com
alyssa@climateintegrity.org
ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org
christopher@climateintegrity.org
corey@climateintegrity.org
mike@climateintegrity.org
heather.lewis@doj.ca.gov
jessica.gordon@doj.ca.gov

View all guest info

Reply for heather.lewis@doj.ca.gov

Yes No Maybe

More options

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email because you are an attendee on the event. To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer, be added to the guest list, invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or modify your RSVP. [Learn more](#)

From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Jessica Gordon
Subject: RE: 12:30? FW: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, I'm available!

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: 12:30? FW: community briefing re California v Exxon

Heather, are you available at 12:30 for the pre-briefing check-in? No worries if not. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my
colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but
know that you and others are caught up in the
mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this
would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and
start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested
in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next
week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-
profits, and other members of the climate,
environment, and justice communities. We'd love to
have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from
your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss
why the state brought the suit, the specific claims,
and how others can support as the case moves
forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested
and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot
READ IN APP

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the

weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in

support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. "We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that

ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, Shell,
and the American
Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use of
fossil fuel products”
while “misrepresenting
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,
climate action was
delayed for decades, the
case argues, and
Californians now face a
regular onslaught of
disasters — from deadly
wildfires and droughts
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and their
families, communities,
and small businesses
should not have to bear
all the costs of climate
change alone,” reads the
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and will
spend to recover from
such disasters. “This

lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond,

Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general’s complaint, the state’s lawsuit won’t supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer,

continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing

us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-

friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,”

just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the

lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. "We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies."

It's the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the

cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 11:42 AM
To: Alyssa Johl
Cc: Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,
Jessica

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From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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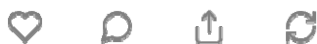
ExxonKnews

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18



READ IN APP

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).



Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the [latest legal brief](#) in support of a climate accountability case.

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The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

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industry. According to the attorney general’s complaint, the state’s lawsuit won’t supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.



Chevron representatives offered details on hydrogen fueling station capabilities at the Richmond Road to Zero Day.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies' ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California's claims.

California's complaint puts a spotlight on the companies' modern deception.

California's complaint documents Big Oil's modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

"Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as 'green,' and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change," reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state's law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as "low carbon," "emissions-reducing," "clean" and/or "green," just as tobacco companies promoted "low-tar" or "light" cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to "climate solutions" despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.



A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday,

Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court’s ruling “allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit.”

The industry’s attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California’s in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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That should be the panelist invite! I don't think you registered separately so that should be it.

And yes, everything is being approved right now!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 2:22 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Kassie! We don't want to get into legal analysis, so let's add these. Thanks!

- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?

For logistics, confirming that the attached is the panelist invite? And my boss says that she registered about 10-15 minutes ago and hasn't received a link yet – is it coming or is there an issue? Thanks!

From: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Here are some other possibilities. Please feel free to share any thoughts now or when we hop on 10 min beforehand. Tremendous thanks again for taking the time to do this. Interest in and appreciation for this case is extremely high! - Kassie

- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?
- How can people best follow this case or get updates about it?
- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- Regarding the public nuisance claim, people often refer to a 2017 California appellate decision, *People v. Con Agra*, finding paint companies liable for their lead paint advertising. Could you tell us a little bit about that case and its implications for this case?
- Sometimes you hear that companies are defending themselves from other accountability cases on the basis of free speech protections. Can you talk a little bit more about California's regulation of commercial speech – and the basic difference between my right to say what I want vs. a corporations' obligations when marketing their products to Californians?
- I thought it was really interesting that there is a special provision in California law that prohibits misleading environmental marketing – can you tell us anything more about that provision, like maybe when it was enacted, and have there been other enforcement actions?
- The strict and negligent products liability claims are really interesting - can you tell us more about that area of law in California, maybe some examples of how they have been previously used to protect the public?

Kassie Siegel, Director

Climate Law Institute

[Center for Biological Diversity](#)

Phone: (951) 961-7972

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:19 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, that approach works for me, thanks Iyla. Also confirming that I received the panelist invite.

Thanks,

Heather

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! I am fine with that, if it works for Heather and everyone else.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord

Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)

Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM

To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM

To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece
my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica),
but know that you and others are caught up in
the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me
know if this would be of interest, we'd love to
get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are
interested in organizing a virtual briefing,
ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday)
for elected officials, non-profits, and other
members of the climate, environment, and
justice communities. We'd love to have AG
Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your
office) join to share his perspective,
and discuss why the state brought the suit, the
specific claims, and how others can support as
the case moves forward. Would the AG or
someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
on Twitter [here](#).*

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

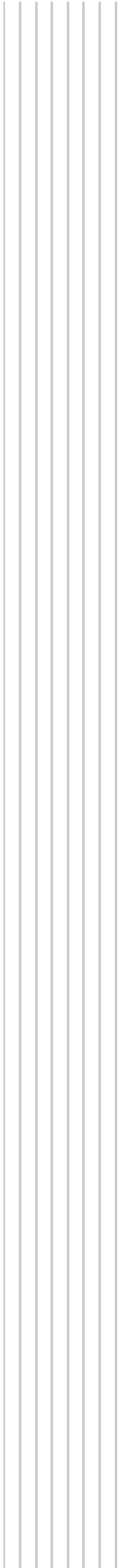
California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP



Graphic design by
Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction and likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their production

role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgate to other states that may have been waiting to make their own move while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the new attorney general to Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to [latest legal brief](#) in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated much while speaking at Climate Week NYC Sunday. Bonta [said](#) hopes California's "will be an inspiration to other states and entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with attorney general a moment ago," Newsom said shortly before posting a photo with [Governor](#)

Wes Moore of
Maryland, where t
municipalities are
already suing Big
“We want to see th
spread, we want m
and more jurisdic
the United Nations
more countries to
in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed
Friday in Californi
state court, argues
ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, SL
and the American
Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use
fossil fuel products
while “misrepresent
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a resul
climate action was
delayed for decade
case argues, and
Californians now f
regular onslaught o
disasters — from c
wildfires and drou
to dangerous heat

waves, hurricanes,
floods.

“Californians and
families, communi
and small business
should not have to
all the costs of clim
change alone,” rea
complaint, citing th
billions of dollars
residents have and
spend to recover fr
such disasters. “Th
lawsuit seeks to ho
those companies
accountable for the
they have told and
damage they have
caused.”

In a first for state
climate lawsuits,
California’s case l
to create an abaten
fund that fossil fue
defendants would
into to help residen
foot the bill for
adaptation and rec
That remedy is bas
a strong California
which was success
used to create a \$3
million abatement
for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit based on cases filed by other California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach the first.

The latest of those was [filed in Richmond](#) at the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions and fires. The city.

mostly made up of people of color, is home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents of Richmond, where Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built much-touted hydrocracking plant at its "modernized" Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions from incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a
on Chevron’s web
last year.

“There’s a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we
fighting to survive
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging
their life while causing
us harm with unproven
technology.”

Chevron and the other
oil companies’ ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing play
major role in
California’s climate

**California’s complicity
puts a spotlight on
companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complicity
documents Big Oil’s
modern greenwashing
and deception about

environmental benefits
of its operations.

“Through recent
advertising campaigns
and public statements,
California and/or
intended to reach
California, including
not limited to online
advertisements and
social media posts,
Defendants falsely
misleadingly portrayed
these products as
‘green,’ and the Fossil
Fuel Defendants portrayed
themselves as climate
friendly energy
companies that are
deeply engaged in
finding solutions to
climate change,” recites
the complaint.

Among many claims
familiar to other climate
accountability suits,
including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud,
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading

environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the statute
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promoted
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as health
alternatives to giving
smoking; marketed
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite
negligible investments
in clean energy as
opposed to their
increasing production
oil and gas; and claimed
to be in alignment with
international climate
goals, all while
protecting and growing

their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported a never-before-seen internal documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of its former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pleaded with the company's shareholders for climate action in violation of the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing the issue.

“The scale and scope of the problem is what the state of California can do what we think can move the needle,” Newsom David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NY. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday’s March to End Fossil Fuels in New York

It’s a tipping point in the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court cleared
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial in
state courts. On Sunday,
Bonta told reporters
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to get
to where we want to go
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempts
to delay and derail these
cases have persisted but
failed, and now California's
in the game, with all signs
pointing to more lawsuits
against Big Oil to come.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Kassie Siegel; Heather Lewis; Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon
Attachments: Public Briefing: California's Climate Accountability Lawsuit

Thanks, Kassie! We don't want to get into legal analysis, so let's add these. Thanks!

- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?

For logistics, confirming that the attached is the panelist invite? And my boss says that she registered about 10-15 minutes ago and hasn't received a link yet – is it coming or is there an issue? Thanks!

From: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Here are some other possibilities. Please feel free to share any thoughts now or when we hop on 10 min beforehand. Tremendous thanks again for taking the time to do this. Interest in and appreciation for this case is extremely high! - Kassie

- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?
- How can people best follow this case or get updates about it?
- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- Regarding the public nuisance claim, people often refer to a 2017 California appellate decision, *People v. Con Agra*, finding paint companies liable for their lead paint advertising. Could you tell us a little bit about that case and its implications for this case?
- Sometimes you hear that companies are defending themselves from other accountability cases on the basis of free speech protections. Can you talk a little bit more about California's regulation of commercial speech – and the basic difference between my right to say what I want vs. a corporations' obligations when marketing their products to Californians?
- I thought it was really interesting that there is a special provision in California law that prohibits misleading environmental marketing – can you tell us anything more about that provision, like maybe when it was enacted, and have there been other enforcement actions?
- The strict and negligent products liability claims are really interesting - can you tell us more about that area of law in California, maybe some examples of how they have been previously used to protect the public?

Kassie Siegel, Director
Climate Law Institute
[Center for Biological Diversity](#)
Phone: (951) 961-7972

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, that approach works for me, thanks Iyla. Also confirming that I received the panelist invite.

Thanks,
Heather

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! I am fine with that, if it works for Heather and everyone else.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan

Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM

To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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EMAIL:** This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other
oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

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Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction and likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own move while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the new attorney general to

Big Oil, 16 attorney general signed on to latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated much while speaking at Climate Week NYC Sunday. Bonta said hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and cities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where the municipalities are already suing Big Oil. "We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions the United Nations more countries to move in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed last Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresent[ing] and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and drought to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars

residents have and will have to spend to recover from the effects of such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case law to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law which was successfully used to create a \$300 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit built on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California

municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and San Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general’s complaint, the state lawsuit won’t supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond at the site of a major Chevron oil refinery, known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents of Chevron, which fuels the city’s newspaper

(which it uses as a platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flared incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director of the Richmond Our Power coalition. “We

[Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements, California and/or its agencies intended to reach California, including through not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portrayed these products as

‘green,’ and the Fossil
Fuel Defendants position
themselves as climate
friendly energy
companies that are
deeply engaged in
finding solutions to
climate change,” recites
the complaint.

Among many claims
familiar to other climate
accountability suits
including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud, and
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the state
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
as a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products

“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promote
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as healthy
alternatives to giving
up smoking; marketed
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite their
negligible investment
in clean energy as
opposed to their
increasing production of
oil and gas; and claimed
to be in alignment with
international climate
goals, all while
protecting and growing
their business in fossil
fuels.

Just last week, the *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) on
never-before-seen
documentation of
Exxon’s deception
under the reign of
former CEO Rex
Tillerson, who pledged
the company’s support
for climate actions in
the Paris Agreement
while working to ca-

doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing the issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do with the think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. "We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the

deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday’s March to End Fossil Fuels in New York

It’s a tipping point in the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters the Supreme Court’s ruling “allows us to go to where we want to go to the merits, to hold

them accountable for
their deceit.”

The industry’s attempt
to delay and derail the
cases have persisted
failed, and now
California’s in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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From: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Heather Lewis; Jessica Gordon; Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Here are some other possibilities. Please feel free to share any thoughts now or when we hop on 10 min beforehand. Tremendous thanks again for taking the time to do this. Interest in and appreciation for this case is extremely high! - Kassie

- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?
- How can people best follow this case or get updates about it?
- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- Regarding the public nuisance claim, people often refer to a 2017 California appellate decision, *People v. Con Agra*, finding paint companies liable for their lead paint advertising. Could you tell us a little bit about that case and its implications for this case?
- Sometimes you hear that companies are defending themselves from other accountability cases on the basis of free speech protections. Can you talk a little bit more about California's regulation of commercial speech – and the basic difference between my right to say what I want vs. a corporations' obligations when marketing their products to Californians?
- I thought it was really interesting that there is a special provision in California law that prohibits misleading environmental marketing – can you tell us anything more about that provision, like maybe when it was enacted, and have there been other enforcement actions?
- The strict and negligent products liability claims are really interesting - can you tell us more about that area of law in California, maybe some examples of how they have been previously used to protect the public?

Kassie Siegel, Director
Climate Law Institute
[Center for Biological Diversity](#)
Phone: (951) 961-7972

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, that approach works for me, thanks Iyla. Also confirming that I received the panelist invite.

Thanks,
Heather

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! I am fine with that, if it works for Heather and everyone else.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM

To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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EMAIL:** This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
on Twitter [here](#).*

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18



READ IN APP

Graphic design by T
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the most
populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies on
earth.

California’s size and political influence – and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction and likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products’ role in climate change. The Golden State’s action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own move while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the new attorney general to Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated much while speaking at Climate Week NYC Sunday. Bonta said hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration

to other states and c
entities to get invol
and join us, to sue a
be part of the effort
hold the industry
accountable.”

“I just met with ano
governor a moment
ago,” Newsom said
shortly before posti
photo with Governor
Wes Moore of
Maryland, where th
municipalities are
already suing Big O
“We want to see thi
spread, we want mo
and more jurisdic
the United Nations
more countries to m
in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed la
Friday in California
state court, argues t
ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, Sh
and the American
Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use
fossil fuel products
while “misrepresen
and concealing the

hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, case argues, and Californians now face regular onslaught of disasters — from drought, wildfires and drought to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case lo

to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California precedent which was successfully used to create a \$300 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit built on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and San Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state

lawsuit won't supercede
any of those pending
local actions, which
expected to reach trial
first.

The latest of those cases
was filed in Richmond
the site of a major
Chevron oil refinery
known for its chronic
pollution, explosions
and fires. The city,
mostly made up of
people of color, is a
home to soaring rates of
cancer, cardiovascular
disease, and childhood
asthma.

But many residents
Chevron, which fund
the city's newspaper
(which it uses as a
platform) and is its
largest employer,
continues to mislead
public about its
operations and push
false climate solutions
that will worsen
environmental justice
harms and continue
oil and gas business
the community. Since
the company built a

much-touted hydrog
plant at its
“modernized”
Richmond refinery
2018, emissions fla
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a p
on Chevron’s webs
last year.

“There’s a daily eff
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we
fighting to survive,”
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “W
[Chevron is] actual
doing is prolonging
their life while caus
us harm with unpro
technology.”

Chevron and the oth
oil companies’ ongo
misinformation and
greenwashing plays
major role in
California’s claims.

**California’s complaint
puts a spotlight on
companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portrayed these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portrayed themselves as climate friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits

including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promote “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investment

in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claiming to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the *Wall Street Journal* reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions in the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said it is "seriously

considering” a run for
governor, and Newsom
who is expected to
preparing for a future
presidential run, are
clearly embracing the
issue.

“The scale and scope
what the state of
California can do with
think can move the
needle,” Newsom to
David Gelles of the
New York Times at
opening ceremony of
Climate Week NYC
“We cannot address
[climate change] unless
we get serious about
addressing the issue
And the issue is fossil
fuels, the issue is the
deceit from these
companies.”

It’s the latest sign that
politicians see taking
Big Oil as an
increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year’s midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York*

**It's a tipping point
the legal fight for
climate accountability**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court clears
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial
state courts. On Sur
Bonta told reporters
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to
to where we want to
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempt
to delay and derail the
cases have persisted
failed, and now
California's in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Jessica Gordon; Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, that approach works for me, thanks Iyla. Also confirming that I received the panelist invite.

Thanks,
Heather

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! I am fine with that, if it works for Heather and everyone else.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden

LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon

- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM

To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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EMAIL:** This message was sent from outside DOJ.

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Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
on Twitter [here](#).

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by T
Abbot

The state of Californ
just launched a gam
changing climate
lawsuit against oil

major, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction and likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates to other states that might have been waiting to make their own move while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the new attorney general to Big Oil, 16 attorney general signed on to latest legal brief in

support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin
Newsom indicated a
much while speaking
Climate Week NYC
Sunday. Bonta said
hopes California's
"will be an inspirati
to other states and c
entities to get invol
and join us, to sue a
be part of the effort
hold the industry
accountable."

"I just met with and
governor a moment
ago," Newsom said
shortly before posti
photo with Governor
Wes Moore of
Maryland, where th
municipalities are
already suing Big O
"We want to see thi
spread, we want mo
and more jurisdic
the United Nations
more countries to m
in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed la
Friday in California
state court, argues t

ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, Shell,
and the American
Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use
fossil fuel products’
while “misrepresent[ed]
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,
climate action was
delayed for decades
case argues, and
Californians now face
regular onslaught of
disasters — from deadly
wildfires and drought
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and their
families, communities,
and small businesses
should not have to bear
all the costs of climate
change alone,” read the
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and will
spend to recover from
such disasters. “This

lawsuit seeks to hold
those companies
accountable for the
they have told and t
damage they have
caused.”

In a first for state
climate lawsuits,
California’s case lo
to create an abatem
fund that fossil fuel
defendants would p
into to help resident
foot the bill for
adaptation and reco
That remedy is base
a strong California
which was successf
used to create a \$30
million abatement f
for lead paint.

Here are some other
things to know abou
California’s case:

**Bonta’s lawsuit bu
on cases filed by ei
California
municipalities.**

In 2017 and 2018, e
California
municipalities — S
Francisco, Oakland
Santa Cruz, Richmo

Imperial Beach, and
counties of San Ma
San Marin, and San
Cruz — filed some
the earliest climate
liability lawsuits ag
the fossil fuel indus
According to the
attorney general’s
complaint, the state
lawsuit won’t super
any of those pendin
local actions, which
expected to reach tr
first.

The latest of those c
was filed in Richmo
the site of a major
Chevron oil refinery
known for its chron
pollution, explosion
and fires. The city,
mostly made up of
people of color, is a
home to soaring rat
cancer, cardiovascu
disease, and childho
asthma.

But many residents
Chevron, which fun
the city’s newspape
(which it uses as a l
platform) and is its
largest employer,

continues to mislead the public about its operations and push false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flared incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director of the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing

us harm with unproven
technology.”

Chevron and the other
oil companies’ ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing plays a
major role in
California’s claims.

**California’s complaint
puts a spotlight on
oil companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint
documents Big Oil’s
modern greenwashing
and deception about
environmental benefits
of its operations.

“Through recent
advertising campaigns
and public statements,
California and/or
intended to reach
California, including
not limited to online
advertisements and
social media posts,
Defendants falsely and
misleadingly portrayed
these products as
‘green,’ and the Fossil
Fuel Defendants portrayed
themselves as climate

friendly energy
companies that are
deeply engaged in
finding solutions to
climate change,” re
the complaint.

Among many claim
familiar to other cli
accountability suits
including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud, a
negligence, the case
also brings a new ca
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. Californ
argues the compani
are violating the sta
law meant to protec
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptiv
promoted natural ga
a climate solution;
deceptively market
fossil fuel products
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducin
“clean” and/or “gre

just as tobacco companies promote “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) on never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions in the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the

lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing the issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do with the think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. "We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies."

It's the latest sign that politicians see taking Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to go to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempt to delay and derail the

cases have persisted
failed, and now
California's in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! I am fine with that, if it works for Heather and everyone else.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy

Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment

- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM

To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

**EXTERNAL
EMAIL:** This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

**EXTERNAL
EMAIL:** This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know

if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
on Twitter [here](#).*

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

READ IN APP

Graphic design by T
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the most
populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies
on earth.

California’s size and political influence – and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction and likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products’ role in climate change. The Golden State’s action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own move while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the new attorney general to Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated much while speaking at Climate Week NYC Sunday. Bonta said hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration

to other states and c
entities to get invol
and join us, to sue a
be part of the effort
hold the industry
accountable.”

“I just met with ano
governor a moment
ago,” Newsom said
shortly before posti
photo with Governor
Wes Moore of
Maryland, where th
municipalities are
already suing Big O
“We want to see thi
spread, we want mo
and more jurisdic
the United Nations
more countries to m
in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed la
Friday in California
state court, argues t
ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, Sh
and the American
Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use
fossil fuel products
while “misrepresen
and concealing the

hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, case argues, and Californians now face regular onslaught of disasters — from drought, wildfires and drought to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case lo

to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California precedent which was successfully used to create a \$300 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit built on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and San Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state

lawsuit won't supercede
any of those pending
local actions, which
expected to reach trial
first.

The latest of those cases
was filed in Richmond
the site of a major
Chevron oil refinery
known for its chronic
pollution, explosions
and fires. The city,
mostly made up of
people of color, is a
home to soaring rates of
cancer, cardiovascular
disease, and childhood
asthma.

But many residents
Chevron, which fund
the city's newspaper
(which it uses as a
platform) and is its
largest employer,
continues to mislead
public about its
operations and push
false climate solutions
that will worsen
environmental justice
harms and continue
oil and gas business
the community. Since
the company built a

much-touted hydrog
plant at its
“modernized”
Richmond refinery
2018, emissions fla
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a p
on Chevron’s webs
last year.

“There’s a daily eff
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we
fighting to survive,”
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “W
[Chevron is] actual
doing is prolonging
their life while caus
us harm with unpro
technology.”

Chevron and the oth
oil companies’ ong
misinformation and
greenwashing plays
major role in
California’s claims.

**California’s complaint
puts a spotlight on
companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portrayed these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portrayed themselves as climate friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits

including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud, and
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the state
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
as a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promote
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as healthy
alternatives to giving
up smoking; marketed
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite their
negligible investment

in clean energy as
opposed to their
increasing production
oil and gas; and cla
to be in alignment w
international climat
goals, all while
protecting and grow
their business in fos
fuels.

Just last week, the V
Street Journal repor
never-before-seen
documentation of
Exxon's deception
under the reign of
former CEO Rex
Tillerson, who pled
the company's supp
for climate actions
the Paris Agreement
while working to ca
doubt on climate
science behind the
scenes. Exxon is the
lead defendant in
California's case.

**California's case is
latest sign of the
evolving politics of
taking on Big Oil.**

Both Bonta, who fil
the suit and has saic
is "seriously

considering” a run for governor, and Newsom who is expected to preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing the issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do with the think can move the needle,” Newsom to David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York*

**It's a tipping point
the legal fight for
climate accountability**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court clears
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial
state courts. On Sur
Bonta told reporters
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to
to where we want to
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempt
to delay and derail the
cases have persisted
failed, and now
California's in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis

<Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar

City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM

To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM

To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

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I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
on Twitter [here](#).*

Graphic design by T
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the
populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies
on earth.

California's size and
political influence –
and its position as the
first major oil produ

state to take the ind
to court — give the
lawsuit distinction a
likely the most pow
action to date to hol
Big Oil companies
accountable for lyin
about their products
role in climate chan
The Golden State’s
action could very li
open the floodgates
other states that mig
have been waiting t
make their own mo
while Attorney Gen
Rob Bonta is the ni
attorney general to
Big Oil, 16 attorney
general signed on to
latest legal brief in
support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin
Newsom indicated
much while speakin
Climate Week NYC
Sunday. Bonta said
hopes California’s r
“will be an inspirati
to other states and c
entities to get invol
and join us, to sue a
be part of the effort

hold the industry
accountable.”

“I just met with another
governor a moment
ago,” Newsom said
shortly before posting
photo with Governor
Wes Moore of
Maryland, where the
municipalities are
already suing Big Oil.
“We want to see this
spread, we want more
and more jurisdiction
the United Nations
more countries to move
in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed last
Friday in California
state court, argues that
ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, Shell
and the American
Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use
fossil fuel products”
while “misrepresent[ing]
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,

climate action was delayed for decades, case argues, and Californians now face regular onslaught of disasters — from drought, wildfires and drought to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents

foot the bill for
adaptation and reco
That remedy is base
a strong California
which was successf
used to create a \$30
million abatement f
for lead paint.

Here are some other
things to know abou
California’s case:

**Bonta’s lawsuit bu
on cases filed by ei
California
municipalities.**

In 2017 and 2018, e
California
municipalities — S
Francisco, Oakland
Santa Cruz, Richmo
Imperial Beach, and
counties of San Ma
San Marin, and San
Cruz — filed some
the earliest climate
liability lawsuits ag
the fossil fuel indus
According to the
attorney general’s
complaint, the state
lawsuit won’t super
any of those pendin
local actions, which

expected to reach the
first.

The latest of those cases
was filed in Richmond
the site of a major
Chevron oil refinery,
known for its chronic
pollution, explosions
and fires. The city,
mostly made up of
people of color, is a
home to soaring rates of
cancer, cardiovascular
disease, and childhood
asthma.

But many residents
Chevron, which fun
the city's newspaper
(which it uses as a
platform) and is its
largest employer,
continues to mislead
public about its
operations and push
false climate solutions
that will worsen
environmental justice
harms and continue
oil and gas business
the community. Since
the company built a
much-touted hydrog
plant at its
“modernized”

Richmond refinery
2018, emissions flares
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post
on Chevron's website
last year.

"There's a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we
fighting to survive,"
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. "What
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging
their life while causing
us harm with unproven
technology."

Chevron and the other
oil companies' ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing plays
major role in
California's claims.

**California's complaint
puts a spotlight on**

**companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portrayed these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portrayed themselves as climate friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” recites the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits including public nuisance, false

advertising, fraud, and
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the statute
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
as a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promote
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as healthy
alternatives to giving
up smoking; marketed
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite their
negligible investment
in clean energy as
opposed to their

increasing production of oil and gas; and claiming to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions in the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and New

who is expected to
preparing for a future
presidential run, are
clearly embracing the
issue.

“The scale and scope
what the state of
California can do with
think can move the
needle,” Newsom to
David Gelles of the
New York Times at
opening ceremony of
Climate Week NYC
“We cannot address
[climate change] unless
we get serious about
addressing the issue.
And the issue is fossil
fuels, the issue is the
deceit from these
companies.”

It’s the latest sign that
politicians see taking
Big Oil as an
increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year’s midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York*

**It's a tipping point
the legal fight for
climate accountability**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court clears
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial
state courts. On Sur
Bonta told reporters
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to
to where we want to
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempt
to delay and derail the
cases have persisted
failed, and now
California's in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo

Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be

appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

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suspicious.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by T
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the m
populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies
earth.

California's size and
political influence —
and its position as the
first major oil produ
state to take the indu
to court — give the

lawsuit distinction as
likely the most powerful
action to date to hold
Big Oil companies
accountable for lying
about their products
role in climate change.
The Golden State's
action could very likely
open the floodgates to
other states that might
have been waiting to
make their own move
while Attorney General
Rob Bonta is the ninth
attorney general to sue
Big Oil, 16 attorneys
general signed on to
latest legal brief in
support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin
Newsom indicated as
much while speaking
Climate Week NYC
Sunday. Bonta said he
hopes California's move
"will be an inspiration
to other states and other
entities to get involved
and join us, to sue and
be part of the effort to

hold the industry
accountable.”

“I just met with another
governor a moment
ago,” Newsom said,
shortly before posting
photo with Governor
Wes Moore of
Maryland, where three
municipalities are
already suing Big Oil.
“We want to see this
spread, we want more
and more jurisdiction
the United Nations and
more countries to move
in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late
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ExxonMobil, BP,
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and the American
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“aggressive[ly]
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climate action was delayed for decades, case argues, and Californians now face regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and drought to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents

foot the bill for
adaptation and recovery.
That remedy is based on
a strong California law
which was successfully
used to create a \$305
million abatement fund
for lead paint.

Here are some other
things to know about
California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit built on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which

expected to reach tri-
first.

The latest of those ca-
was filed in Richmond
the site of a major
Chevron oil refinery
known for its chroni-
pollution, explosions
and fires. The city,
mostly made up of
people of color, is al-
home to soaring rates
cancer, cardiovascul-
disease, and childho-
asthma.

But many residents s-
Chevron, which func-
the city's newspaper
(which it uses as a P-
platform) and is its
largest employer,
continues to mislead
public about its
operations and push
false climate solution
that will worsen
environmental justice
harms and continue
oil and gas business
the community. Since
the company built a
much-touted hydrog-
plant at its
“modernized”

Richmond refinery in
2018, emissions flaring
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post
on Chevron's website
last year.

"There's a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we're
fighting to survive,"
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director at
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. "We
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging
their life while causing
us harm with unproven
technology."

Chevron and the other
oil companies' ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing plays
major role in
California's claims.

**California's complaints
puts a spotlight on**

**companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” read the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false

advertising, fraud, and
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the state
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
as a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products as
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promoted
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as healthy
alternatives to giving
up smoking; marketed
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite their
negligible investment
in clean energy as
opposed to their

increasing production of oil and gas; and claim to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal [report](#) on never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "[seriously considering](#)" a run for governor, and Newsom

who is expected to be
preparing for a future
presidential run, are
clearly embracing the
issue.

“The scale and scope
what the state of
California can do we
think can move the
needle,” Newsom to
David Gelles of the
New York Times at
opening ceremony of
Climate Week NYC.
“We cannot address
[climate change] unl
we get serious about
addressing the issue.
And the issue is foss
fuels, the issue is the
deceit from these
companies.”

It’s the latest sign tha
politicians see taking
Big Oil as an
increasingly popular
move, as we saw dur
last year’s midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York C*

**It's a tipping point
the legal fight for
climate accountability**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court clears
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial
state courts. On Sunday
Bonta told reporters
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to go
to where we want to
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempt
to delay and derail the
cases have persistent
failed, and now
California's in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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that appear
suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

**EXTERNAL
EMAIL:** This
message
was sent
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outside DOJ.
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that appear
suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece
my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but
know that you and others are caught up in the
mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if
this would be of interest, we'd love to get it
scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are
interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally
early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected
officials, non-profits, and other members of the
climate, environment, and justice communities.
We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or
someone else from your office) join to share his
perspective, and discuss why the state brought
the suit, the specific claims, and how others can
support as the case moves forward. Would the
AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big
Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other
oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

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Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the m

populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies
earth.

California's size and
political influence —
and its position as the
first major oil producing
state to take the industry
to court — give the
lawsuit distinction as
likely the most powerful
action to date to hold
Big Oil companies
accountable for lying
about their products'
role in climate change.
The Golden State's
action could very likely
open the floodgates for
other states that might
have been waiting to
make their own move
while Attorney General
Rob Bonta is the ninth
attorney general to sue
Big Oil, 16 attorneys
general signed on to the
latest legal brief in
support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin

Newsom indicated a much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. "We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdiction the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell and the American

Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use of
fossil fuel products”
while “misrepresenti
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,
climate action was
delayed for decades,
case argues, and
Californians now face
regular onslaught of
disasters — from de
wildfires and drought
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and the
families, communities
and small businesses
should not have to bear
all the costs of climate
change alone,” reads
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and will
spend to recover from
such disasters. “This
lawsuit seeks to hold
those companies
accountable for the lies
they have told and the

damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond at the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which functions as the city's newspaper (which it uses as a public platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push false climate solutions.

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environmental justice
harms and continue
oil and gas business
the community. Since
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much-touted hydrog
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Screenshot from a po
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Chevron and the other oil companies' ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California's claims.

California's complaint puts a spotlight on the oil companies' modern greenwashing and deception.

California's complaint documents Big Oil's modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

"Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements, California and/or its agencies intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portrayed these products as 'green,' and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portrayed themselves as climate friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in

finding solutions to
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Among many claims
familiar to other climate
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also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
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consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
as a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products as
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promoted
“low-tar” or “light”

cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving smoking; marketed the businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investment in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal [report](#) never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing the issue.

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game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big
to come.

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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 8:37 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:
Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM

To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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EMAIL:** This
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suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my
colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but
know that you and others are caught up in the
mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if
this would be of interest, we'd love to get it
scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are
interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally
early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected
officials, non-profits, and other members of the
climate, environment, and justice communities.
We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or
someone else from your office) join to share his
perspective, and discuss why the state brought the
suit, the specific claims, and how others can
support as the case moves forward. Would the AG
or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big

Oil
To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other
oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

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Abbot

The state of Californi
just launched a game-

changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the most
populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies
on earth.

California's size and
political influence —
and its position as the
first major oil producing
state to take the industry
to court — give the
lawsuit distinction as
likely the most powerful
action to date to hold
Big Oil companies
accountable for lying
about their products'
role in climate change.
The Golden State's
action could very likely
open the floodgates for
other states that might
have been waiting to
make their own move
while Attorney General
Rob Bonta is the ninth
attorney general to sue
Big Oil, 16 attorneys
general signed on to the

latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. "We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdiction the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California

state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and drought to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from

such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland,

Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general’s complaint, the state’s lawsuit won’t supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its

largest employer,
continues to mislead the
public about its
operations and push for
false climate solutions
that will worsen
environmental justice
harms and continue its
oil and gas business in
the community. Since
the company built a
much-touted hydrogen
plant at its
“modernized”
Richmond refinery in
2018, emissions flaring
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post
on Chevron’s website
last year.

“There’s a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we’re
fighting to survive,”
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director at
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “What
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging

their life while causing
us harm with unproven
technology.”

Chevron and the other
oil companies’ ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing plays a
major role in
California’s claims.

**California’s complaint
puts a spotlight on the
companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint
documents Big Oil’s
modern greenwashing
and deception about the
environmental benefits
of its operations.

“Through recent
advertising campaigns
and public statements
California and/or
intended to reach
California, including
not limited to online
advertisements and
social media posts,
Defendants falsely and
misleadingly portray
these products as
‘green,’ and the Fossil
Fuel Defendants portr

themselves as climate
friendly energy
companies that are
deeply engaged in
finding solutions to
climate change,” read
the complaint.

Among many claims
familiar to other climate
accountability suits,
including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud, and
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the state
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas
as a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products as
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”

“clean” and/or “green”
just as tobacco
companies promoted
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as healthy
alternatives to giving
smoking; marketed their
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite their
negligible investment
in clean energy as
opposed to their
increasing production
of oil and gas; and claimed
to be in alignment with
international climate
goals, all while
protecting and growing
their business in fossil
fuels.

Just last week, the *Washington
Street Journal* reported
never-before-seen
documentation of
Exxon’s deception
under the reign of
former CEO Rex
Tillerson, who pledged
the company’s support
for climate actions like
the Paris Agreement
while working to cast
doubt on climate
science behind the

scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. "We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the

deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday’s March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City

It’s a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court’s ruling “allows us to go to where we want to go to the merits, to hold

them accountable for
their deceit.”

The industry’s attempt
to delay and derail the
cases have persistently
failed, and now
California’s in the
game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big Oil
to come.

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Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks!

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, I'll share the link with our contacts at the city attorneys' offices.

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:36 AM
To: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: community briefing re California v Exxon

Heather, can you please let the CA locals know about the webinar and share this link if they want to register? Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

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To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

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To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
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delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

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Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)

Political Director, State and Local Programs

[Center for Climate Integrity](#)

iyla@climateintegrity.org

+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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EMAIL:** This
message
was sent
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outside DOJ.
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suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my
colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but
know that you and others are caught up in the
mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if
this would be of interest, we'd love to get it
scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are
interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally
early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected
officials, non-profits, and other members of the
climate, environment, and justice communities.
We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or
someone else from your office) join to share his
perspective, and discuss why the state brought the
suit, the specific claims, and how others can support
as the case moves forward. Would the AG or
someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game-
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the

world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. "We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron,

ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies

accountable for the lies
they have told and the
damage they have
caused.”

In a first for state
climate lawsuits,
California’s case looks
to create an abatement
fund that fossil fuel
defendants would pay
into to help residents
foot the bill for
adaptation and recovery.
That remedy is based on
a strong California law,
which was successfully
used to create a \$305
million abatement fund
for lead paint.

Here are some other
things to know about
California’s case:

**Bonta’s lawsuit builds
on cases filed by eight
California
municipalities.**

In 2017 and 2018, eight
California
municipalities — San
Francisco, Oakland,
Santa Cruz, Richmond,
Imperial Beach, and the
counties of San Mateo,

San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general’s complaint, the state’s lawsuit won’t supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its

operations and push for
false climate solutions
that will worsen
environmental justice
harms and continue its
oil and gas business in
the community. Since
the company built a
much-touted hydrogen
plant at its
“modernized”
Richmond refinery in
2018, emissions flaring
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post
on Chevron’s website
last year.

“There’s a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we’re
fighting to survive,”
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director at
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “What
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging
their life while causing

us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-

friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,”

just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the

lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. "We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies."

It's the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the

cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, I'll share the link with our contacts at the city attorneys' offices.

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Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
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I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

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Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
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Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against

populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin

Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly]

Petroleum Institute
“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use of
fossil fuel products”
while “misrepresenting
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result,
climate action was
delayed for decades, the
case argues, and
Californians now face a
regular onslaught of
disasters — from deadly
wildfires and droughts
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and their
families, communities,
and small businesses
should not have to bear
all the costs of climate
change alone,” reads the
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and will
spend to recover from
such disasters. “This
lawsuit seeks to hold
those companies
accountable for the lies
they have told and the

damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions

that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in

finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light”

cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

California’s case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an

increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year's midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York City*

**It's a tipping point for
the legal fight for
climate accountability**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court cleared
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial in
state courts. On Sunday
Bonta told reporters that
the Supreme Court's
ruling "allows us to get
to where we want to go
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit."

The industry's attempts
to delay and derail the
cases have persistently
failed, and now
California's in the

game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against Big Oil
to come.

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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy

- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

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+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

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Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

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Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Ilya Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
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ilya@climateintegrity.org
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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

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Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Many thanks,

Alyssa

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From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other
oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

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Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game-
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the mo

populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the [latest legal brief](#) in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin

Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

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California’s case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 4:42 PM
To: Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy

- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

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Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest

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Rob Bonta is the ninth
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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYigqjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment

- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
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Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM

To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if

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this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as

likely the most powerful
action to date to hold
Big Oil companies
accountable for lying
about their products’
role in climate change.
The Golden State’s
action could very likely
open the floodgates for
other states that might
have been waiting to
make their own moves;
while Attorney General
Rob Bonta is the ninth
attorney general to sue
Big Oil, 16 attorneys
general signed on to the
latest legal brief in
support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin
Newsom indicated as
much while speaking at
Climate Week NYC on
Sunday. Bonta said he
hopes California’s move
“will be an inspiration
to other states and other
entities to get involved
and join us, to sue and
be part of the effort to
hold the industry
accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and

Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on

a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its "modernized" Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring

incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post
on Chevron’s website
last year.

“There’s a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we’re
fighting to survive,”
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director at
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “What
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging
their life while causing
us harm with unproven
technology.”

Chevron and the other
oil companies’ ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing plays a
major role in
California’s claims.

**California’s complaint
puts a spotlight on the
companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case

also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. California
argues the companies
are violating the state’s
law meant to protect
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies deceptively
promoted natural gas as
a climate solution;
deceptively marketed
fossil fuel products as
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducing,”
“clean” and/or “green,”
just as tobacco
companies promoted
“low-tar” or “light”
cigarettes as healthy
alternatives to giving up
smoking; marketed their
businesses as
contributing to “climate
solutions” despite their
negligible investments
in clean energy as
opposed to their
increasing production of
oil and gas; and claimed

to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom who is expected to be preparing for a future

presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday’s March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Iyla Shornstein; Kassie Siegel; Alyssa Johl
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Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
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- Audubon
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Political Director, State and Local Programs

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iyla@climateintegrity.org

+1 (845) 706 3159

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Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)

Political Director, State and Local Programs

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Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

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Many thanks,

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
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would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

READ IN APP

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies

accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said,

shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly

wildfires and droughts
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes, and
floods.

“Californians and their
families, communities,
and small businesses
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Here are some other
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**Bonta's lawsuit builds
on cases filed by eight
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municipalities.**

In 2017 and 2018, eight
California
municipalities — San
Francisco, Oakland,
Santa Cruz, Richmond,
Imperial Beach, and the
counties of San Mateo,
San Marin, and Santa
Cruz — filed some of
the earliest climate
liability lawsuits against
the fossil fuel industry.
According to the
attorney general's
complaint, the state's
lawsuit won't supersede
any of those pending
local actions, which are
expected to reach trial
first.

The latest of those cases
was filed in Richmond,
the site of a major
Chevron oil refinery

known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its "modernized" Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the

environmental benefits
of its operations.

“Through recent
advertising campaigns
and public statements in
California and/or
intended to reach
California, including but
not limited to online
advertisements and
social media posts,
Defendants falsely and
misleadingly portray
these products as
‘green,’ and the Fossil
Fuel Defendants portray
themselves as climate-
friendly energy
companies that are
deeply engaged in
finding solutions to
climate change,” reads
the complaint.

Among many claims
familiar to other climate
accountability suits,
including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud, and
negligence, the case
also brings a new cause
of action under
California law:
misleading

environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state's law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as "low carbon," "emissions-reducing," "clean" and/or "green," just as tobacco companies promoted "low-tar" or "light" cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to "climate solutions" despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing

their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday’s March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It’s a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM
To: lyla Shornstein; Kassie Siegel
Cc: Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: lyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: lyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

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On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess
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Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions

that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

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California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in

finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light”

cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

California’s case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC.

“We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

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*A sign at Sunday's
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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Jessica Gordon; Kassie Siegel
Cc: Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

**EXTERNAL
EMAIL:** This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the

first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products’ role in climate change. The Golden State’s action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and

be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the

public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay

into to help residents
foot the bill for
adaptation and recovery.
That remedy is based on
a strong California law,
which was successfully
used to create a \$305
million abatement fund
for lead paint.

Here are some other
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The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: lyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

No problem! Let me just confirm availability on our end and I will get back to you ASAP.

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

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Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
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Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

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Jessica

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Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

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+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

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I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

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Sounds good and nice to meet you, Ilya. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

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Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
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Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the

first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products’ role in climate change. The Golden State’s action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and

be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the

public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay

into to help residents
foot the bill for
adaptation and recovery.
That remedy is based on
a strong California law,
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Here are some other
things to know about
California's case:

**Bonta's lawsuit builds
on cases filed by eight
California
municipalities.**

In 2017 and 2018, eight
California
municipalities — San
Francisco, Oakland,
Santa Cruz, Richmond,
Imperial Beach, and the
counties of San Mateo,
San Marin, and Santa
Cruz — filed some of
the earliest climate
liability lawsuits against
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According to the
attorney general's
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expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its "modernized"

Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director at the Richmond Our Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the

companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false

advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state's law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their

increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom,

who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC.

“We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York City.*

**It's a tipping point for
the legal fight for
climate accountability.**

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 10:39 AM
To: lyla Shornstein
Cc: Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: lyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

lyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

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To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

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Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

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Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

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Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

READ IN APP: The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most

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Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

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cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

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increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.

A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

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From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon
Attachments: California Lawsuit Public Briefing 10_18_23.docx

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

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Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

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To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

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Many thanks,

Alyssa

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Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
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To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
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I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested
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profits, and other members of the climate,
environment, and justice communities. We'd love to
have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from
your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss
why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and
how others can support as the case moves forward.
Would the AG or someone else be interested and
available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

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From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with her
on Twitter [here](#).*

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game-
changing climate
lawsuit against oil

READ IN APP majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the most
populous state in the
nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies on
earth.

California’s size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products’ role in climate change. The Golden State’s action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California’s move “will be an inspiration

to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable.”

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the

hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks

to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's

lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a

much-touted hydrogen
plant at its
“modernized”
Richmond refinery in
2018, emissions flaring
incidents have
skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a post
on Chevron’s website
last year.

“There’s a daily effort
to create this
misinformation
campaign while we’re
fighting to survive,”
said Katt Ramos,
Managing Director at
the Richmond Our
Power coalition. “What
[Chevron is] actually
doing is prolonging
their life while causing
us harm with unproven
technology.”

Chevron and the other
oil companies’ ongoing
misinformation and
greenwashing plays a
major role in
California’s claims.

**California’s complaint
puts a spotlight on the
companies’ modern
deception.**

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” reads the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits,

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To: Heather Lewis; Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Alyssa Johl
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Alyssa

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From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more *Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate*

Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her on Twitter [here](#).

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by Tess
Abbot

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The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as

likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and be part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and

Californians now face a regular onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on

a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

Bonta's lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state's lawsuit won't supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial first.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city's newspaper (which it uses as a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its "modernized" Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions flaring

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Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case

also brings a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California argues the companies are violating the state's law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as "low carbon," "emissions-reducing," "clean" and/or "green," just as tobacco companies promoted "low-tar" or "light" cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to "climate solutions" despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed

to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon's deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future

presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.

*A sign at Sunday’s
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York City.*

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: 'Iyla Shornstein'; Jessica Gordon
Cc: Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis
Deputy Attorney General
Environment Section
California Department of Justice
1515 Clay St, 20th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 879-1008

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Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
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Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
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Best,

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Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

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Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

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Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

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Many thanks,

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I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

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Sure, sounds great. Thanks!

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Hi Jessica – thank you for coordinating this! If it's okay with you, I suggest that we propose a prep call during one the free windows you proposed on 10/16 and 10/17. I am mostly out the prior week (I'll only be working on Thursday 10/12), but I could be available Thursday 10/12 between 2-5pm if needed. Let me know if you'd like me to respond to Ilya proposing the 10/16 and 10/17 times.

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According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception

under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company's support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California's case.

California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is "seriously considering" a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

"The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle," Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of

Climate Week NYC.
“We cannot address
[climate change] unless
we get serious about
addressing the issue.
And the issue is fossil
fuels, the issue is the
deceit from these
companies.”

It’s the latest sign that
politicians see taking on
Big Oil as an
increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year’s midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday’s
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York City.*

**It’s a tipping point for
the legal fight for
climate accountability.**

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court cleared
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial in
state courts. On Sunday,

Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court’s ruling “allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit.”

The industry’s attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California’s in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Jessica – thank you for coordinating this! If it's okay with you, I suggest that we propose a prep call during one the free windows you proposed on 10/16 and 10/17. I am mostly out the prior week (I'll only be working on Thursday 10/12), but I could be available Thursday 10/12 between 2-5pm if needed. Let me know if you'd like me to respond to Ilya proposing the 10/16 and 10/17 times.

Thanks,
Heather

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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+1 (845) 706 3159

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From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

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Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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California opens the floodgates on B

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other o

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

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Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up with her o

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Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against oil major
most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel compa

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major oil produ
likely the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lyin
could very likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to r
attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Action Week. “We want to be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sue and

“I just met with another governor a moment ago,” Newsom said, shortly before posting a video of his meeting. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more municipalities are already suing Big Oil. “We want to see this spread, we want more and more in this direction.”

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, BP, and other fossil fuel companies “aggressive[ly] promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products” while “misrepresenting and misleading the public.” As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and California has suffered from wildfires and droughts to dangerous heat waves, hurricanes, and floods.

“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not have to pay the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “They have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which would allow a private party to sue a public entity for climate change damages.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit builds on cases filed by eight California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Clara County, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the state. The state’s lawsuit won’t supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to continue.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron oil refinery. The city, which is made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other health problems.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which it uses as a platform to promote its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental problems). Since the company built a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery, the city has seen a significant increase in health problems.

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Screenshot from a post on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to stop the Power coalition. “What [Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing harm.”

Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing play a major role in the climate crisis.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception.

California’s complaint documents Big Oil’s modern greenwashing and deception about climate change.

“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California and/or international markets, Defendants’ advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray themselves as climate-friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change.”

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including public nuisance, the complaint introduces a new cause of action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California consumers have a right to be informed about the environmental impact of products and services, and to be protected from deceptive marketing practices against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution, claiming it was “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low tar” cigarettes. The companies marketed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible impact on climate change; of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while continuing to expand production and consumption of fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documentation of ExxonMobil’s internal strategy to pledge the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to avoid legal liability as a lead defendant in California’s case.

California’s case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Governor Newsom, who is presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle on climate change at the ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get to the root of the problem, which is the deceit from these companies.”

It's the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move

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A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate cases. On Sunday, Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to end their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now it's Big Oil to come.

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Attachments: image001.jpg

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To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

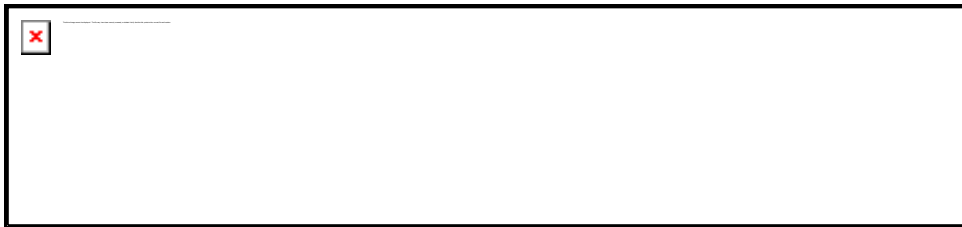
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California opens the floodgates Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18



RE

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up on Twitter [here](#).



Graphic design by Tess Abbot

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California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major fossil fuel producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction and make it the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for lying about their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could very well open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sign on to the 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of a climate change accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to sign on as part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

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“Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not bear all the costs of climate change alone,” reads the complaint, citing the billions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters. “This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for cleanup and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

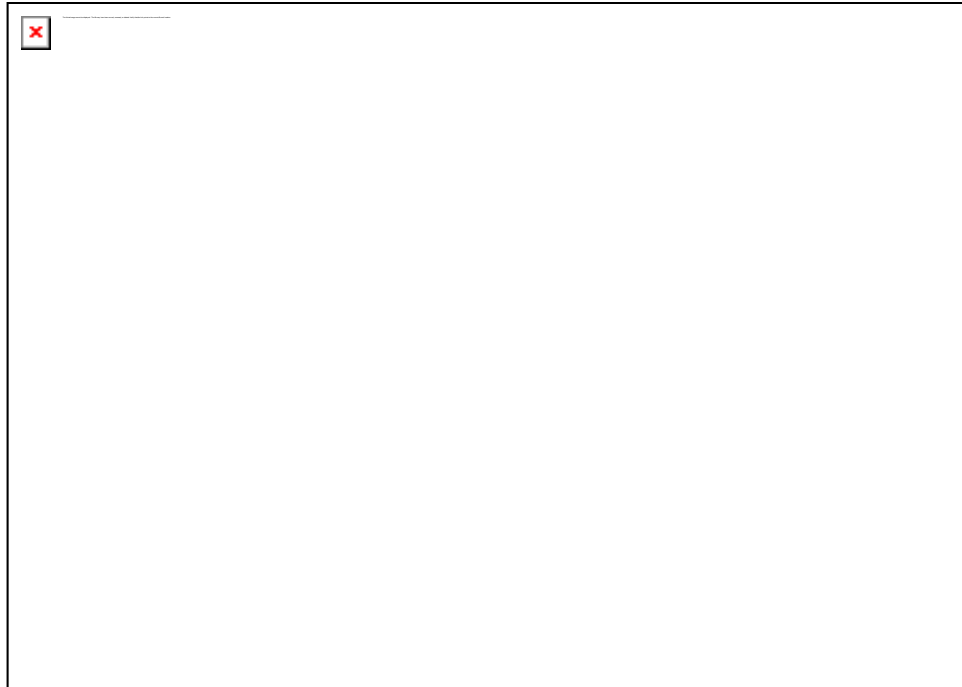
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The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which funds the city’s newspaper (which is a PR platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push for false climate solutions that will worsen environmental harms and continue its oil and gas business in the community. Since the completion of a much-touted hydrogen plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2019, emissions flaring incidents have skyrocketed.



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Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing play a major role in California’s claims.

California’s complaint puts a spotlight on the companies’ modern deception

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“Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements in California intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts, Defendants falsely and misleadingly portray these products as ‘green,’ and the Fossil Fuel Defendants portray themselves as climate-friendly companies that are deeply engaged in finding solutions to climate change,” the complaint.

Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California alleges that the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; portrayed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while profiting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported never-before-seen documents showing Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pledged the company’s support for climate actions like the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in the case.

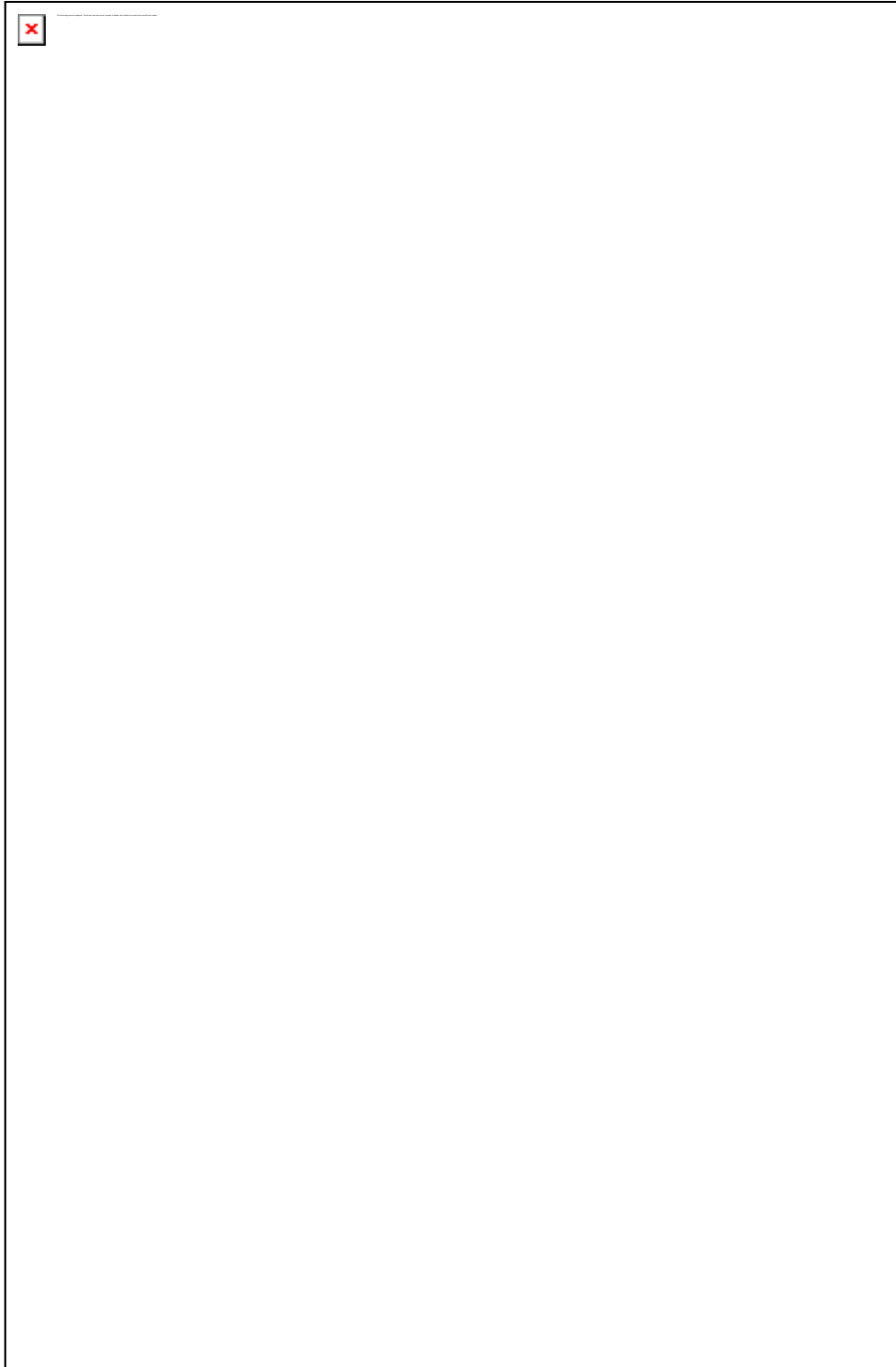
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“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get

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It’s the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year’s midterm elections.



A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate change accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. California Attorney General Rob Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed. California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

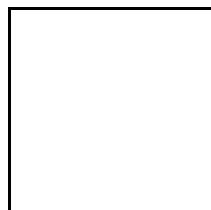
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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Iyla Shornstein; Alyssa Johl
Cc: Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
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+1 (845) 706 3159

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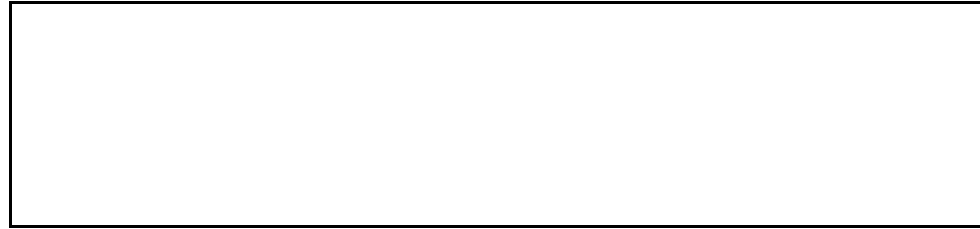
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EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18



REA

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity’s editorial lead. Catch up on Twitter [here](#).

Graphic design by Tess Abbot

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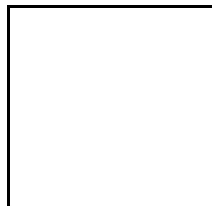
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Alyssa

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From: **ExxonKnews** <exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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ExxonKnews

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS



REA

Emily Sanders is the Center for Climate Integrity's editorial lead. Catch up on Twitter [here](#).



Graphic design by Tess Abbot

The state of California just launched a game-changing climate lawsuit against fossil fuel majors, bringing the weight of one of the world's largest economies and the most populous state in the nation to bear against some of the biggest fossil fuel companies on earth.

California's size and political influence — and its position as the first major fossil fuel producing state to take the industry to court — give the lawsuit distinction as the most powerful action to date to hold Big Oil companies accountable for their products' role in climate change. The Golden State's action could

likely open the floodgates for other states that might have been waiting to make their own moves; while Attorney General Rob Bonta is the ninth attorney general to sue Big Oil, 16 attorneys general signed on to the latest legal brief in support of the accountability case.

Both Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom indicated as much while speaking at Climate Week NYC on Sunday. Bonta said he hopes California's move "will be an inspiration to other states and other entities to get involved and join us, to support our part of the effort to hold the industry accountable."

"I just met with another governor a moment ago," Newsom said, shortly before posting a photo with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland, where three municipalities are already suing Big Oil. "We want to see this spread, we want more and more jurisdictions, the United Nations and more countries to move in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed late Friday in California state court, argues that ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and the American Petroleum Institute "aggressively promot[ed] the use of fossil fuel products" while "misrepresenting and concealing the hazards of those products to deceive consumers and the public." As a result, climate action was delayed for decades, the case argues, and Californians now face a "onslaught of disasters — from deadly wildfires and droughts to dangerous hurricanes, and floods."

"Californians and their families, communities, and small businesses should not be required to bear all the costs of climate change alone," reads the complaint, citing the "trillions of dollars residents have and will spend to recover from such disasters." "This lawsuit seeks to hold those companies accountable for the lies they have told and the harm they have caused."

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California's case looks to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California law, which was successfully used to create a \$305 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California's case:

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In 2017 and 2018, eight California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some of the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the oil and gas industry. According to the attorney general’s complaint, the state’s lawsuit will supersede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach trial in 2023.

The latest of those cases was filed in Richmond, the site of a major Chevron refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions, and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is also home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

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Chevron and the other oil companies’ ongoing misinformation and greenwashing plays a major role in California’s claims.

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Among many claims familiar to other climate accountability suits, including nuisance, false advertising, fraud, and negligence, the case also brings a new action under California law: misleading environmental marketing. California claims the companies are violating the state’s law meant to protect consumers against greenwashing.

According to the complaint, the companies deceptively promoted natural gas as a climate solution; deceptively marketed fossil fuel products as “low carbon,” “emissions-reducing,” “clean” and/or “green,” just as tobacco companies promoted “low-tar” or “light” cigarettes as healthy alternatives to giving up smoking; portrayed their businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite their negligible investments in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while producing and growing their business in fossil fuels.

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It's the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly powerful move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.



A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

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Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Heather Lewis; Iyla Shornstein
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

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and other members of the climate, environment, and
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or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his
perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit,
the specific claims, and how others can support as the case
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EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18



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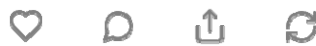
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California's case is the latest sign of the evolving politics of taking on Big Oil.

Both Bonta, who filed the suit and has said he is “seriously considering” a run for governor, and Newsom, who is expected to be preparing for a future presidential run, are clearly embracing this issue.

“The scale and scope of what the state of California can do we think can move the needle,” Newsom told David Gelles of the New York Times at the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC. “We cannot address [climate change] unless we get serious about addressing the issue. And the issue is fossil fuels, the issue is the deceit from these companies.”

It's the latest sign that politicians see taking on Big Oil as an increasingly popular move, as we saw during last year's midterm elections.



A sign at Sunday's March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City.

It's a tipping point for the legal fight for climate accountability.

California is the first state to file since the Supreme Court cleared the way for climate accountability suits against Big Oil to proceed toward trial in state courts. On Sunday, Governor Bonta told reporters that the Supreme Court's ruling "allows us to get to where we want to go, to the merits, to hold them accountable for their deceit."

The industry's attempts to delay and derail the cases have persistently failed, and now California's in the game, with all signs pointing to more lawsuits against Big Oil to come.

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From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein
Cc: Kassie Siegel; Heather Lewis; Alyssa Johl
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks!

An additional question is: "what has Big Oil's reaction to your lawsuit been like? Is it what you expected?"

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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That should be the panelist invite! I don't think you registered separately so that should be it.

And yes, everything is being approved right now!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
Center for Climate Integrity
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 2:22 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Kassie! We don't want to get into legal analysis, so let's add these. Thanks!

- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?

For logistics, confirming that the attached is the panelist invite? And my boss says that she registered about 10-15 minutes ago and hasn't received a link yet – is it coming or is there an issue? Thanks!

From: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:29 AM

To: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; lyla Shornstein <ilya@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Here are some other possibilities. Please feel free to share any thoughts now or when we hop on 10 min beforehand. Tremendous thanks again for taking the time to do this. Interest in and appreciation for this case is extremely high! - Kassie

- What can people/organizations do to support this lawsuit?
- How can people best follow this case or get updates about it?
- The section of the complaint that talks about how the deception campaigns continue today, and about greenwashing, is so powerful. Can you talk a little bit more about greenwashing – what is it – and some of the examples in the complaint (pp. 82-87)?
- Regarding the public nuisance claim, people often refer to a 2017 California appellate decision, *People v. Con Agra*, finding paint companies liable for their lead paint advertising. Could you tell us a little bit about that case and its implications for this case?
- Sometimes you hear that companies are defending themselves from other accountability cases on the basis of free speech protections. Can you talk a little bit more about California's regulation of commercial speech – and the basic difference between my right to say what I want vs. a corporations' obligations when marketing their products to Californians?
- I thought it was really interesting that there is a special provision in California law that prohibits misleading environmental marketing – can you tell us anything more about that provision, like maybe when it was enacted, and have there been other enforcement actions?
- The strict and negligent products liability claims are really interesting - can you tell us more about that area of law in California, maybe some examples of how they have been previously used to protect the public?

Kassie Siegel, Director

Climate Law Institute

[Center for Biological Diversity](#)

Phone: (951) 961-7972

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Yes, that approach works for me, thanks Iyla. Also confirming that I received the panelist invite.

Thanks,

Heather

From: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks! I am fine with that, if it works for Heather and everyone else.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Great! I'll let Kassie send along a few additional questions.

One other suggestion -- Kassie and myself can drop questions into the "hosts/panelists" chat. Heather and Jessica can react with a 'thumbs up' emoji to the questions that would be good to answer in this setting. Then, I can send them privately to Alyssa. That way, Heather and Jessica only need to look at one chat and Alyssa only needs to look at one chat. The only people running between chats are Kassie and myself? Hopefully that didn't overcomplicate it! I am also fine with google or teams!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! Here are a couple of questions we'd like to address. Do you have others already in mind? And I'm still looking for a doc we can all easily edit together, but alternatives are for us to look at google docs on personal devices simultaneously or to use a Teams chat.

Q: Why did California file its climate accountability suit now?

Q: Big cases like this one tend to move slowly. What do you see happening before the case is resolved?

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi there,

Most recent list of elected officials/offices registered to attend:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor
CA Senator Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate - Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Office of Rep. Katie Porter
State Senate - Lena Gonzalez
CA Senate - Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policy
Office of Senator Henry Stern
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Office of Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Asm. Boerner
US House of Representatives - Katie Porter
California State Senate - Steve Padilla

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 11:36 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi folks,

I can send you an updated list in a bit as we've had a jump in registrations. I also want to confirm that you each received the panelist invite?

Thanks!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 9:43 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

No problem! The offices listed below are represented in the registrations either by the officeholder themselves or their staff:

LA County- Janice Hahn
City of Concord
Sen. Menjivar
City of Los Angeles - Yaroslavsky
ASM Schiavo
Assembly District 55, Majority Leader Isaac Bryan
Los Angeles County, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
ASM Muratsuchi
ASM Holden

LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Los Angeles City - Raman
Asm. Bauer-Kahan
California Senate, Office of Senator Durazo
Office of the Governor

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again. Can you please tell me what elected officials are registered? Appreciate it.

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! We will reach out to those groups. Here is the public zoom registration link: https://climateintegrity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eNlpQsDiRYiggjkaF8-oow#/registration

Have a great day!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)

Political Director, State and Local Programs

[Center for Climate Integrity](#)

iyla@climateintegrity.org

+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 4:52 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for the great conversation earlier. Can you please add these groups? And can you please share the public zoom link? Appreciate it.

Jessica

- Democracy Forward Foundation
- APEN
- Audubon
- Nature Conservancy
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Clean Air Task Force
- Sierra Club CA
- CEJA
- Communities for a Better Environment
- State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law
- Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program

Thanks!

From: Jessica Gordon

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 12:24 PM

To: 'Iyla Shornstein' <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Thanks for rescheduling! I'm hoping we can discuss your anticipated format and which groups you have invited. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>

Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi again,

Looks like we can start early. I will change the invite to a start time of 12:30 PT. Let me know if anything changes and I look forward to speaking then!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 1:38 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Apologies for the slow reply but the invitation looks great.

Unfortunately I now have a conflict at 1:20 PT today, so either need to start our prep call earlier or reschedule. I am available all day until that time and from 2-2:30 PT. Thanks!

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:57 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Absolutely! We are grateful to you for joining! We are going to invite mainly nonprofits (CA-based and some national) and CA elected officials. We've been educating elected officials in CA about climate accountability for some time so we want to make sure folks know about and understand the recent filing. We would be delighted if you suggested groups to add. The more the merrier! No specific parameters -- we wanted this to be largely educational.

I am attaching the event description to this email. Can you let me know if you are comfortable with this and then we can move forward promoting it?

Thanks Jessica

PS - I am just confirming the monday times for a prep call but will be back to you ASAP!

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:53 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks again for organizing! Can you please tell us who you're inviting? I've gotten requests to speak with a number of NGOs, so it would be great to know who we'll already be briefing at this event. And if it would be

appropriate for us to suggest groups to add, please let us know if you have parameters for invited groups (e.g., only orgs with legal teams).

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: community briefing re California v Exxon

Hi Iyla,

Jessica and I are available for a prep call during the 10/16 and 10/17 windows in Jessica's earlier email – those times would be preferable if possible as I'll be out much of the previous week.

Thanks,

Heather Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Environment Section

California Department of Justice

1515 Clay St, 20th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 879-1008

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 6:38 AM

To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Sorry for the double message! Realizing we should also get a prep call on the calendar. Kassie Siegel from Center for Biological Diversity and Michel Legendre from Corporate Accountability are helping us to organize this as well. Shall we aim to prep the week prior? Whatever works best for you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 8:44 AM Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

Thanks so much! Let's go with Wednesday, 10/18 at 12pm PT. I will work to get a registration link and language together so we can start promoting. I will send what I put together here before it goes live for your approval.

Thank you!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 5:09 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks! We're currently available in these slots:

- Monday, 10/16/2023 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, 10/17/2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, 10/18/2023 – 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:43 AM

To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

Cc: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi folks!

Sorry for the late reply! Yes, we were thinking an hour.

Thanks so much!

Best,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 5:50 PM Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

I would imagine it will be an hour.

Iyla, is that what you're thinking?

On Sep 29, 2023, at 3:49 PM, Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Sounds good and nice to meet you, Iyla. How long an event were you thinking? Thanks.

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: community briefing re California v Exxon

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Hi Jessica (and Heather),

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and no worries! We're happy to hear that you and Heather are able to participate.

Could we schedule the briefing for the week of 10/16, sometime between 9 am-2 pm PT? We are flexible, so please let us know what works best for you. I'm cc'ing my colleague Iyla Shornstein, who is helping to organize behind the scenes.

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:42 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Alyssa, with further apologies for the slow reply, I'm adding Heather Lewis, a member of the legal team who will join me on the briefing. Please send a few potential dates/times that work for you. We're looking forward to it!

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: RE: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

So sorry for the slow reply – it's been hectic, as you can probably imagine! We are discussing internally and hope to get back to you in the next day or so. Thank you for your interest and patience!

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

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Hi Jessica,

I wanted to circle back on this, as we'd love to get this scheduled. Have you been able to consult with AG Bonta or others in your office re interest/availability for a briefing next week?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:27 PM, Jessica Gordon
<Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Alyssa! Will get back to you ASAP.

On Sep 18, 2023, at 3:20 PM, Alyssa Johl
<alyssa@climateintegrity.org> wrote:

Hi both,

I thought you would be interested in this piece my colleague Emily Sanders just published.

Also, I sent this message earlier (to Jessica), but know that you and others are caught up in the mayhem of Climate Week. Please let me know if this would be of interest, we'd love to get it scheduled and start promoting this week.

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I spoke with Kassie from CBD, and we are interested in organizing a virtual briefing, ideally early next week (Monday or Tuesday) for elected officials, non-profits, and other members of the climate, environment, and justice communities. We'd love to have AG Bonta (or you or Ed or someone else from your office) join to share his perspective, and discuss why the state brought the suit, the specific claims, and how others can support as the case moves forward. Would the AG or someone else be interested and available?

Many thanks,

Alyssa

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ExxonKnews**

<exxonknews@substack.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

To: <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>

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*Emily Sanders is the
Center for Climate
Integrity's editorial
lead. Catch up with
on Twitter [here](#).*

California opens the floodgates on Big Oil

Attorney General Rob Bonta's lawsuit against ExxonMobil and other oil giants signals a new era for climate accountability.

EXXONKNEWS

SEP 18

Graphic design by
Abbot

The state of California
just launched a game
changing climate
lawsuit against oil
majors, bringing the
weight of one of the
world's largest
economies and the
populous state in the

nation to bear against
some of the biggest
fossil fuel companies on
earth.

California's size and
political influence
and its position as the
first major oil producing
state to take the industry
to court — give the
lawsuit distinction
likely the most powerful
action to date to hold
Big Oil companies
accountable for lying
about their production
role in climate change.
The Golden State's
action could very likely
open the floodgates for
other states that may
have been waiting
to make their own move
while Attorney General
Rob Bonta is the new
attorney general to
Big Oil, 16 attorneys
general signed on to the
[latest legal brief](#) in
support of a climate
accountability case.

Both Bonta and
Governor Gavin
Newsom indicated

much while speaking at the
Climate Week NY event on
Sunday. Bonta said he
hopes California's lawsuit
"will be an inspiration
to other states and
entities to get involved
and join us, to sue
be part of the effort to
hold the industry
accountable."

"I just met with an
governor a moment
ago," Newsom said
shortly before posting a
photo with Governor
Wes Moore of
Maryland, where the
municipalities are
already suing Big Oil.
"We want to see the
spread, we want more
and more jurisdictions
the United Nations
more countries to move
in this direction."

The lawsuit, filed Monday
Friday in California
state court, argues that
ExxonMobil, BP,
Chevron,
ConocoPhillips, Shell
and the American
Petroleum Institute

“aggressive[ly]
promot[ed] the use
fossil fuel products
while “misrepresent
and concealing the
hazards of those
products to deceive
consumers and the
public.” As a result
climate action was
delayed for decades
case argues, and
Californians now face
regular onslaught of
disasters — from
wildfires and drought
to dangerous heat
waves, hurricanes,
floods.

“Californians and
families, communi
and small businesses
should not have to
all the costs of climate
change alone,” read
complaint, citing the
billions of dollars
residents have and
spend to recover from
such disasters. “The
lawsuit seeks to hold
those companies
accountable for the
they have told and

damage they have caused.”

In a first for state climate lawsuits, California’s case led to create an abatement fund that fossil fuel defendants would pay into to help residents foot the bill for adaptation and recovery. That remedy is based on a strong California precedent which was successfully used to create a \$300 million abatement fund for lead paint.

Here are some other things to know about California’s case:

Bonta’s lawsuit based on cases filed by other California municipalities.

In 2017 and 2018, California municipalities — San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Imperial Beach, and the counties of San Mateo, San Marin, and Santa Cruz — filed some

the earliest climate liability lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. According to the attorney general's complaint, the state lawsuit won't supercede any of those pending local actions, which are expected to reach the first.

The latest of those was filed in Richmond at the site of a major Chevron oil refinery known for its chronic pollution, explosions and fires. The city, mostly made up of people of color, is home to soaring rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and childhood asthma.

But many residents say Chevron, which fuels the city's newspaper (which it uses as a platform) and is its largest employer, continues to mislead the public about its operations and push false climate solutions.

that will worsen environmental justice harms and continue oil and gas business in the community. Since the company built the much-touted hydrocracking plant at its “modernized” Richmond refinery in 2018, emissions from incidents have skyrocketed.

Screenshot from a video posted on Chevron’s website last year.

“There’s a daily effort to create this misinformation campaign while we’re fighting to survive,” said Katt Ramos, Managing Director of the Richmond Our Power coalition. “[Chevron is] actually doing is prolonging their life while causing us harm with unproven technology.”

Chevron and the other oil companies' ongoing misinformation and greenwashing played a major role in California's climate crisis.

California's complaint puts a spotlight on the oil companies' model of deception.

California's complaint documents Big Oil's modern greenwashing and deception about the environmental benefits of its operations.

"Through recent advertising campaigns and public statements, California and/or its agencies intended to reach California, including but not limited to online advertisements and social media posts. Defendants falsely and misleadingly portrayed these products as 'green,' and the Fuel Defendants portrayed themselves as climate friendly energy companies that are deeply engaged in

finding solutions to
climate change,” re
the complaint.

Among many claim
familiar to other cl
accountability suits
including public
nuisance, false
advertising, fraud,
negligence, the cas
also brings a new c
of action under
California law:
misleading
environmental
marketing. Califor
argues the compan
are violating the st
law meant to prote
consumers against
greenwashing.

According to the
complaint, the
companies decepti
promoted natural g
a climate solution;
deceptively marke
fossil fuel products
“low carbon,”
“emissions-reducin
“clean” and/or “gre
just as tobacco
companies promot
“low-tar” or “light

cigarettes as health alternatives to giving smoking; marketed businesses as contributing to “climate solutions” despite negligible investment in clean energy as opposed to their increasing production of oil and gas; and claimed to be in alignment with international climate goals, all while protecting and growing their business in fossil fuels.

Just last week, the *Street Journal* [reported](#) never-before-seen documentation of Exxon’s deception under the reign of former CEO Rex Tillerson, who pleaded the company’s support for climate actions to the Paris Agreement while working to cast doubt on climate science behind the scenes. Exxon is the lead defendant in California’s case.

**California's case
latest sign of the
evolving politics of
taking on Big Oil.**

Both Bonta, who filed
the suit and has said
is “seriously
considering” a run
governor, and Newsom
who is expected to
preparing for a future
presidential run, are
clearly embracing
issue.

“The scale and scope
what the state of
California can do v
think can move the
needle,” Newsom
David Gelles of the
New York Times at
opening ceremony
Climate Week NY
“We cannot address
[climate change] unless
we get serious about
addressing the issue
And the issue is fossil
fuels, the issue is the
deceit from these
companies.”

It's the latest sign
politicians see taking
Big Oil as an

increasingly popular
move, as we saw during
last year's midterm
elections.

*A sign at Sunday's
March to End Fossil
Fuels in New York*

It's a tipping point the legal fight for climate accountability

California is the first
state to file since the
Supreme Court cleared
the way for climate
accountability suits
against Big Oil to
proceed toward trial
state courts. On Sunday,
Bonta told reporters
the Supreme Court
ruling “allows us to
to where we want
to the merits, to hold
them accountable for
their deceit.”

The industry's attempt
to delay and derail
cases have persisted
failed, and now
California's in the

game, with all signs
pointing to more
lawsuits against BP
to come.

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From: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:28 PM
To: Iyla Shornstein; Jessica Gordon; Heather Lewis; Michel Legendre; Alyssa Johl
Cc: Christopher Townsend-Diaz
Subject: RE: THANK YOU

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Echoing the thanks for your time and the excellent presentations, Jessica and Heather! A number of people commented in the chat that it was extremely helpful for them, and with their thanks as well. And please do pass along our gratitude to everyone on your team for all of the brilliant work!

Kassie Siegel, Director
Climate Law Institute
[Center for Biological Diversity](#)
Phone: (951) 961-7972

From: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>; Michel Legendre <mlegendre.consulting@gmail.com>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Cc: Christopher Townsend-Diaz <christopher@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: THANK YOU

Jessica and Heather — a HUGE thank you from all of us at CCI and beyond. We have already received so much positive feedback from attendees who felt that the call was educational, substantive, and inspiring. We really appreciate you sharing your time with us to help folks understand the details of this monumentally important lawsuit.

Kassie and Michel — Thank you SO much for partnering with us to make this all happen. Because of your efforts and organizing, we had an incredible turnout of nonprofits, elected officials, activists, and beyond. We appreciate your comments and the work you put in to make this such a success.

Tomorrow, Christopher and I will get an email out to folks who attended with a few informational links. Jessica and Heather — we will also work on compiling the questions that we were not able to get to and attach the respective contact info so you can follow up, if you wish.

Thanks again to all for helping give the context and spotlight that this issue deserves.

Warmly,

Iyla Shornstein ([pronounce](#)) (she/her)
Political Director, State and Local Programs
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
iyla@climateintegrity.org
+1 (845) 706 3159

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 4:13 PM
To: Kassie Siegel; Iyla Shornstein; Heather Lewis; Michel Legendre; Alyssa Johl
Cc: Christopher Townsend-Diaz
Subject: RE: THANK YOU

Thanks to all of you for the opportunity and for your own thoughtful talks, behind-the-scenes organizational work, and general support.

Best,
Jessica

From: Kassie Siegel <ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:28 PM
To: Iyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>; Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>; Michel Legendre <mlegendre.consulting@gmail.com>; Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
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[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
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+1 (845) 706 3159

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:31 AM
To: Alyssa Johl; Heather Lewis
Cc: Corey Riday-White
Subject: RE: time to talk?

Hi, Alyssa,

We're available today from 12:30-1, 1:30-2 and after 3 and tomorrow before 10, 11:30-1, and after 3 PT. What works for you? Thanks!

Jessica

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:43 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Corey Riday-White <corey@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: time to talk?

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Hi Jessica and Heather,

Are either/both of you available to talk sometime this week or late next week (Thu or Fri)? We have a question that has come up since the briefing. We would like to hear your thoughts and also share an update.

Many thanks,
Alyssa

--

Alyssa Johl (she/her)
Vice President of Legal/General Counsel
[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
alyssa@climateintegrity.org
+1 (510) 435 6892

From: Jessica Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Heather Lewis
Subject: RE: time to talk?

Thanks, Heather. I think it's good for us both to join – I will reply.

From: Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:18 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: time to talk?

Hi Jessica,

Would you like me to respond to Alyssa? If it's helpful I can try to set up a time to speak with her and report back to you. Or if you'd like to join, my schedule is fairly open today and tomorrow (with the exception of 10-11:30 tomorrow). Or if you'd like to handle the call on your own, that would also be fine by me.

Thanks,
Heather

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:43 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Corey Riday-White <corey@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: time to talk?

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Alyssa

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Vice President of Legal/General Counsel
[Center for Climate Integrity](https://www.climateintegrity.org/)
alyssa@climateintegrity.org
+1 (510) 435 6892

From: Heather Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:18 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Subject: RE: time to talk?

Hi Jessica,

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Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:43 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Corey Riday-White <corey@climateintegrity.org>
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[Center for Climate Integrity](#)
alyssa@climateintegrity.org
+1 (510) 435 6892

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Jessica Gordon
Cc: Heather Lewis; Corey Riday-White
Subject: Re: time to talk?

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

How about tomorrow at 9:30 am PT? I can send a zoom link if that works.

Alyssa

On Tue, Nov 7, 2023 at 1:31 PM Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Hi, Alyssa,

We're available today from 12:30-1, 1:30-2 and after 3 and tomorrow before 10, 11:30-1, and after 3 PT. What works for you? Thanks!

Jessica

From: Alyssa Johl <alyssa@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:43 AM
To: Jessica Gordon <Jessica.Gordon@doj.ca.gov>; Heather Lewis <Heather.Lewis@doj.ca.gov>
Cc: Corey Riday-White <corey@climateintegrity.org>
Subject: time to talk?

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From: Christopher Townsend <no-reply@zoom.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 12:13 PM
To: Heather Lewis
Subject: Reminder: Public Briefing: California's Climate Accountability Lawsuit starts in 1 day

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er Lewis,
Reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 day:

Briefing: California's Climate Accountability Lawsuit

Time Oct 18, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ID 810 4008 0214

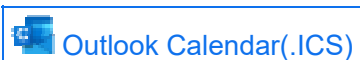
Description Join the California Attorney General's Office for a deep dive conversation about California's climate accountability lawsuit against Big Oil companies, hosted by the Center for Climate Integrity, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Corporate Accountability.

On September 15th, California filed a major climate accountability lawsuit against Chevron, Exxon, Shell, ConocoPhillips, BP, and the American Petroleum Institute, making it the eighth state and largest economy to sue fossil fuel giants for their climate deception.

"Oil and gas companies have privately known the truth for decades — that the burning of fossil fuels leads to climate change — but have fed us lies and mistruths to further their record-breaking profits at the expense of our environment," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said.

From increasingly severe wildfire seasons to extreme heat and droughts, California's worsening climate conditions have been fueled by Big Oil pollution and efforts to deceive the public. This lawsuit seeks to enjoin the deceptive practices and create an abatement fund for climate adaptation projects, which would help protect residents by ensuring that polluters, not communities, pay for the damages they knowingly caused.

Please note: If you are registering from outside of the U.S., you may select any state from the dropdown as your location.



Note this event will not be recorded. We strongly encourage you to attend.

[cancel](#) your registration at any time.

Submit any questions to: christopher@climateintegrity.org

u!

JOIN THIS WEBINAR

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Webinar

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Via audio

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D: 810 4008 0214



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San Jose, CA 95113



From: Christopher Townsend <no-reply@zoom.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Heather Lewis
Subject: Reminder: Public Briefing: California's Climate Accountability Lawsuit starts in 1 hour

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Time Oct 18, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ID 810 4008 0214

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San Jose, CA 95113



From: lyla Shornstein <iyla@climateintegrity.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Jessica Gordon; Heather Lewis; Kassie Siegel; Michel Legendre; Alyssa Johl
Cc: Christopher Townsend-Diaz
Subject: THANK YOU

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Cc: Corey Riday-White
Subject: time to talk?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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