

Journal #2827 from sdc 4.10.13

- WikiLeaks Launches Searchable US Historical Archive*
- DOE nominee favors volunteer sites for nuclear waste*
- Seven State Keystone XL Resolutions, Where Are the Environmentalists?*
- Judge Rules Obama Administration Broke Law, Overlooked Fracking Risks*
- Ancient people had clogged arteries, too, mummy CT scans show*
- Tribal group urges Supreme Court to uphold Indian Child Welfare Act*
- Scientists clone extinct frog – Jurassic Park here we come?*
- College students teach LTUSD kids environmental lessons*
- Finding passion in California parks*
- GrantStation*
- Flag Song for the Language Program Dinner*
- We-have-been-mislead-by-an-erroneous-map-of-the-world-for-500 years*
- The Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project*
- Opening a Gateway for Girls to Enter the Computer Field*
- Judge temporarily blocks fracking on Central Coast*
- CA Judge Rules Fracking Needs Further Investigation*

WikiLeaks Launches Searchable US Historical Archive

[Read the Article at Agence France Presse](#)

DOE nominee favors volunteer sites for nuclear waste

By STEVE TETREAULT STEPHENS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama’s choice for Energy secretary said Tuesday he was committed to finding volunteer states and communities to host repositories for nuclear waste.

Ernest Moniz, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said he favored “consent-based siting” both for temporary and permanent storage of highly radioactive used nuclear fuel now being stockpiled at commercial reactors around the country.

Moniz was a member of the blue ribbon commission formed to make recommendations on nuclear waste after Obama moved in 2009 to terminate the Yucca Mountain repository program in Nevada.

“There’s no question that I will enter the role of secretary, if confirmed, with the idea of advancing the blue ribbon commission agenda, first and foremost consent-based siting is a part of that,” Moniz said at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

To Nevada leaders who fought against Yucca Mountain, the term “consent based siting” is code for “anywhere but Nevada,” since they do not intend for the state to volunteer to become a storage site.

Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., quizzed Moniz on Yucca Mountain, saying the Department of Energy previously “tried to shove it down Nevada’s throat.”

Heller said after the hearing he was “comfortable” that Moniz “has the best interests of Nevada at hand, at least on this particular issue.”

Heller said he planned to vote to confirm the nominee “unless something else comes out in the next couple of weeks.”

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., also is expected to vote for Moniz, who served as a top Department of Energy official during the Clinton administration.

Contact Stephens Washington Bureau Chief Steve Tetreault at stetreault@stephensmedia.com or 202-783-1760.



Click SHARE to stand with Nancy and those most affected by KXL's toxic contents.

Nancy is taking action today in solidarity with residents of neighboring Mayflower, Arkansas who have been forced from their homes and are suffering the health impacts from tar sands toxins.

Read more about Nancy's action here: <http://gptarsandsresistance.org/2013/04/09/3rd-action/>

Redford writes: "It is not in our nation's best interest to pipe tar sands across our fields and aquifers so that the oil industry can reach the higher prices of overseas markets. How many red flags do we need before we realize that the solution is to stop tar sands expansion and say no to tar sands pipelines? I think we've seen enough."

Robert Redford, Reader Supported News 4.9.13

[Seven State Keystone XL Resolutions, Where Are the Environmentalists?](#)

Nick Surgey, PRWatch: Oil interests have been lobbying in force for the state bills to pass, but there have been few opposing voices. [Read the Article](#)

Judge Rules Obama Administration Broke Law, Overlooked Fracking Risks in California Mineral Leases

[Read the Article at Reuters](#)

[Tribal group urges Supreme Court to uphold Indian Child Welfare Act](http://www.tulsaworld.com)
www.tulsaworld.com

[CATOOSA - Members of the National Indian Child Welfare Association on Monday asked for a federal law to be left intact as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to take up ...](#)

Scientists clone extinct frog – Jurassic Park here we come?

In 1983, a genuine freak of nature was lost to science. The gastric-brooding frog – *Rheobatrachus silus* – was native to the rainforests of Queensland, Australia and best known for giving birth through its mouth, having incubated its offspring in its stomach. But habitat loss and disease saw the species officially declared extinct.

Until now. [Scientists in Australia](#) have announced that they have brought the frog's genome "back to life". Employing a [cloning](#) technology called somatic cell nuclear transfer, they used tissue obtained from samples of a frog kept in a freezer since the 1970s to implant a "dead" cell nucleus into a fresh egg from a similar species.

None of the embryos created survived for more than a few days, but the "Lazarus Project" team believe their work is a landmark moment for the new science of "de-extinction" – the artificial recreation of lost species that featured fictionally in the Jurassic Park films. "Now we have fresh cryo-preserved cells of the extinct frog to use in future cloning experiments," says team leader Professor Mike Archer of the University of New South Wales, in Sydney. "We're increasingly confident that the hurdles ahead are technological and not biological, and that we will succeed. Importantly, we've demonstrated already the great promise this technology has as a conservation tool when hundreds of the world's amphibian species are in catastrophic decline."

Last week, scientists and conservationists met in Washington DC to thrash out the ethical, moral and technical questions of, as they admit, "playing God". A central question is whether such cloning techniques "bring back" an extinct species, or just create a new one that looks exactly like the old one.

"That remains to be seen," said the conference organisers. "It is one reason to do the research: is the genome the species? The answer will vary from species to species. De-extincted plants should flourish as if they'd never left, if suitable pollinators are still around. But if California condors had gone extinct, it's unclear if they could be brought back fully, because the young rely on parental training."

Archer says his focus is now on cloning the extinct Australian thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger. However, at the conference talk was already moving on to targeting other extinct species, such as the woolly mammoth and dodo.

Ancient people had clogged arteries, too, mummy CT scans show

By Suzanne Wu March 11, 2013

Like nearly 4.6 million Americans, ancient hunter-gatherers also suffered from clogged arteries, revealing that the plaque buildup causing blood clots, heart attacks and strokes is not just a result of fatty diets or couch potato habits, according to new research published on March 10 in the journal *The Lancet*.

The researchers performed CT scans of 137 mummies from across four continents and found artery plaque in every single population studied, from preagricultural hunter-gatherers in the Aleutian Islands to the ancient Puebloans of southwestern United States.

Their findings provide an important twist to one's understanding of atherosclerotic vascular disease, which is the leading cause of death in the developed world. While modern lifestyles can accelerate the development of plaque on arteries, the prevalence of the disease across human history shows it may have a more basic connection to inflammation and aging.

"This is not a disease only of modern circumstance but a basic feature of human aging in all populations," said USC University Professor Caleb Finch, a senior author of the study and the ARCO/Kieschnick Professor of Gerontology at the USC Davis School of Gerontology, who also holds an appointment at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. "Turns out even a Bronze Age guy from 5,000 years ago had calcified, carotid arteries," Finch said, referring to Ötzi the Iceman, a natural mummy who lived around 3200 B.C. and was discovered frozen in a glacier in the Italian Alps in 1991.

With Gregory Thomas of Long Beach Memorial, Finch was part of a team that previously showed Egyptian mummies had calcified patches on their arteries indicative of advanced atherosclerosis (from the Greek "athero," meaning "gruel," and "scler," meaning "hard").

But ancient Egyptians tended to mummify only royalty or those who had privileged lives. The new study led by Thomas and Randall Thompson of Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute examined mummies from four drastically different climates and diets — and from cultures that mummified regular people, including ancient Peruvians, Ancestral Puebloans, the Unangans of the Aleutian Islands and ancient Egyptians.

"Our research shows that we are all at risk for atherosclerosis, the disease that causes heart attacks and strokes — all races, diets and lifestyles," said Thomas, medical director of the MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute at Long Beach Memorial. "Because of this we all need to be cautious of our diet, weight and exercise to minimize its impact. The data gathered about individuals from the prehistoric cultures of ancient Peru and the Native Americans living along the Colorado River and the Unangan of the Aleutian Islands is forcing us to think outside the box and look for other factors that may cause heart disease."

Overall, the researchers found probable or definite atherosclerosis in 34 percent of the mummies studied, with calcification of arteries more pronounced in the mummies that were older at the time of death. Atherosclerosis was equally common in mummies identified as male or female.

"We found that heart disease is a serial killer that has been stalking mankind for thousands of years," Thompson said. "In the last century, atherosclerotic vascular disease has replaced infectious disease as the leading cause of death across the developed world. A common assumption is that the rise in levels of atherosclerosis is predominantly lifestyle-related, and that if modern humans could emulate preindustrial or even preagricultural lifestyles, that atherosclerosis, or at least its clinical manifestations, would be avoided.

“Our findings seem to cast doubt on that assumption, and at the very least, we think they suggest that our understanding of the causes of atherosclerosis is incomplete and that it might be somehow inherent to the process of human aging,” he added.

The international team of researchers will next seek to biopsy ancient mummies to get a better understanding of the role chronic infection, inflammation and genetics play in promoting the prevalence of atherosclerosis.

“Atherosclerosis starts very early in life. In the United States, most kids have little bumps on their arteries. Even stillbirths have little tiny nests of inflammatory cells. But environmental factors can accelerate this process,” Finch said, pointing to studies that show larger plaque buildup in children exposed to household tobacco smoking or who are obese.

<http://news.usc.edu/#!/article/47807/ancient-people-had-clogged-arteries-too-mummy-ct-scans-show/>

<http://news.usc.edu/#!/article/47807/ancient-people-had-clogged-arteries-too-mummy-ct-scans-show/>

College students teach LTUSD kids environmental lessons

Aaron Hussmann, Lake Tahoe News

Students in Lake Tahoe Unified School District are getting a course in energy and resource efficiency this week from a group of college students who have eschewed normal spring break shenanigans to spread the word on environmentalism.

Finding passion in California parks Carli Baker, Daily Californian

Seeing Yosemite for the first time was as close to a religious experience as I'll most likely ever have. I've always loved spending time in the outdoors, hiking, kayaking and the like, but this spring break, I realized how deeply I am physically and emotionally tied to the outside world. It's given me a perspective about my future I didn't have before and a renewed strength in what I'm studying here at Cal.

Grant Station

National Funding Opportunities

Support for Outdoor Youth Programs

The North Face Explore Fund

The North Face Explore Fund aims to inspire the next generation of young explorers and conservationists by supporting nonprofit organizations throughout the country that are working to get youth outdoors to explore their natural world. Grants are provided to organizations that encourage youth outdoor participation, focusing primarily on creating more connections of children to nature, increasing access to both front and backcountry recreation, as well as providing experiential education for both personal and environmental health. Funded programs should seek a specific audience and reach out to a specific community or place of interest. In

2013, the Fund will award 30 grants of \$2,500; ten additional grants of varying amounts will be awarded based on online voting taking place this summer. The application deadline is May 1, 2013. Visit the Fund's website to submit an online application.

Healthy Communities Nationwide Recognized

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Roadmaps to Health Prize](#)

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Roadmaps to Health Prize honors outstanding community efforts and partnerships across the United States that are helping people live healthier lives. Up to six winning communities will each receive a \$25,000 cash prize and have their success stories celebrated and shared broadly with the goal of raising awareness and inspiring locally-driven change across the country. For the purposes of this prize, "a community" is defined as one of the following: town, city, county, tribe or tribal community, or region (such as contiguous towns, cities, or counties). The application deadline is May 23, 2013. Visit the program's website to review the selection criteria and learn more about the application process.

Horse Welfare and Service Programs Funded

[The EQUUS Foundation](#)

The EQUUS Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life of horses, promoting the use of horses to enrich the lives of those in need, and educating the public about the horse's unique ability to empower, teach, and heal. The Foundation provides grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations that impact the well-being of horses, and/or that are improving the quality of life of people through their interactions with horses. The Foundation's two funding priorities including the following: programs that are directly involved with horse rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, foster care, and/or retirement; and programs providing services to the public, such as therapeutic riding, equine-assisted activities, or horsemanship programs. Online applications will be accepted between May 1 and June 15, 2013. Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about the application guidelines and process.

Grants Promote Community Organizing for the Disadvantaged

[Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. SDOP currently supports groups in the United States who are oppressed by poverty and social systems, want to take charge of their own lives, are organizing to do something about their own conditions, and have decided that what they are going to do will produce long-term changes in their lives or communities. Supported projects must be presented, owned, and controlled by the groups of people who will directly benefit from them and must address long-term corrections of the conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. Grants of up to \$20,000 are provided. Applications may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the SDOP website to review the grant criteria.

Regional Funding Opportunities

Healthy Aging Programs in Massachusetts and Rhode Island Supported

[Tufts Health Plan Foundation](#)

The mission of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation is to promote healthy lifestyles and the delivery

of quality healthcare in communities throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Foundation is committed to funding nonprofit organizations that offer Healthy Aging programs for adults ages 60 or older. Grants are provided in the following categories: Health and Wellness, Purposeful Engagement, and Empowerment. The upcoming deadline for letters of inquiry is May 1, 2013. Visit the company's website to learn more about each grant category and to take the online Eligibility Quiz.

Funds for Organizations Enhancing Life in Utah

[George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation](#)

The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that have the potential to make a significant difference in bettering Utah's communities and enriching the quality of life of its citizens. The Foundation's Arts and Culture grants foster the enjoyment of the visual and performing arts and strengthen arts-related education programs. Community grants provide support for social services and humanitarian aid to help people in need. Education grants focus on elevating the overall excellence of higher education in Utah by strengthening the quality of college and university academic and outreach programs. Health Care grants assist organizations offering health care services in Utah's urban and rural areas. Preservation and Conservation grants are provided to organizations that protect the natural environment, as well as organizations involved in historic preservation. Nonprofit organizations in Utah may request a Grant Application Form or submit a letter of inquiry at any time through the Foundation's website.

Grants Address Hunger Issues in the Southeast U.S.

[BI-LO Winn-Dixie Foundation](#)

The BI-LO Winn-Dixie Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of people in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The Foundation's primary focus is on providing funding to organizations that address hunger. The Foundation also funds a limited number of programs focused on health, education, women, and children. The application deadline is June 30, 2013. Visit the Foundation's website to submit an online application.

Support for Youth Programs in West Virginia, Denver, and Houston

[ECA Foundation](#)

The mission of the ECA Foundation is to maximize the development and potential of youth - academically, physically, and spiritually. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that directly impact communities where Energy Corporation of America (ECA) has operations, including the state of West Virginia and the Denver, CO, and Houston, TX, metropolitan areas. The Foundation provides grants for programs that focus on youth education, with preference given to programs that offer direct services. Requests are reviewed quarterly; the next application deadline is May 1, 2013. Visit the Foundation's website to download the funding guidelines and requirements for giving.

Federal Grant and Loan Programs

Support to Improve Quality of Drinking Water

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

The Improving State and Local Capacity to Assess and Manage Risks Associated with Private Wells and Other Small Drinking-Water Systems program supports efforts to better understand the possible exposures, hazards, and health outcomes in communities and populations using private

wells or small drinking-water systems. Letters of intent are due April 29, 2013. The application deadline is May 15, 2013.

Program Offers Second Chance for Adult Offenders [Department of Justice](#)
The Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Adult Offenders with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders program supports the provision of services and treatment during and after incarceration in prison or jail. The application deadline is May 16, 2013.

Delta Region Health Services Supported [Department of Agriculture](#)
The Delta Health Care Services Program provides support to address continued unmet health needs in the Delta Region. Funds may be utilized for the development of healthcare cooperatives, healthcare services, health education programs, healthcare job training programs, and for the development and expansion of public health-related facilities. The application deadline is May 28, 2013.

Program Helps Improve Neighborhood Housing [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)
The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants program provides support to improve severely distressed public or multifamily housing that is located in distressed neighborhoods. The application deadline is May 28, 2013.

[Flag Song for the Language Program Dinner](#)

Very proud of my girls for performing when asked with no hesitation! First time drumming and singing by themselves Length: 1:55

<http://www.upworthy.com/we-have-been-mislead-by-an-erroneous-map-of-the-world-for-500-years>

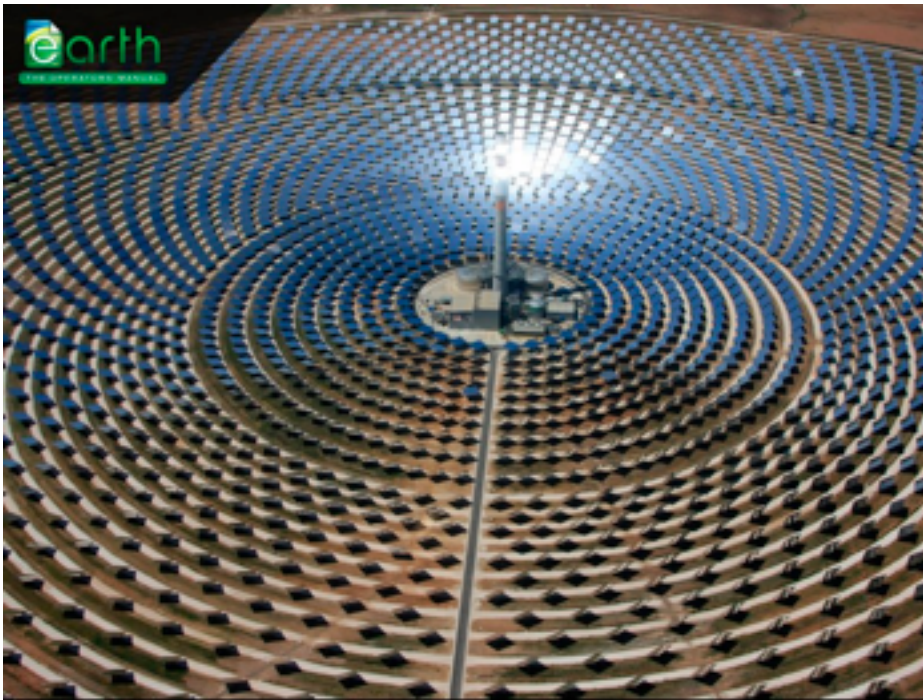
[Opening a Gateway for Girls to Enter the Computer Field dealbook.nytimes.com](http://dealbook.nytimes.com)
[Silicon Valley and several small companies and nonprofits are working to increase the number of women in the technology industry by teaching teenage girls how to write computer code.](#)

A bad week for the tar sands is a GREAT week for Bounty paper towels. The quicker picker upper. Etc...

[5 Tips for Writing a Simple \(and Un-Daunting\) Marketing Plan](#)

Whether you are launching a new product or promoting your latest offer, you should complete a marketing plan. Why? It can help you direct your day-to-day activities, guide your approach and ensure you are making the most of the available resources. These tips can help you get started.

> [Read more](#)



Nevada's Crescent Dunes molten salt solar thermal plant will be the world's largest when completed later this year

At Crescent Dunes molten salt solar thermal plant, the sun will shine 24/7. When completed later this year, it will give Nevada bragging rights to the largest renewable energy plant of its kind in the world. <http://tinyurl.com/bt82p84>

[Crescent Dunes | SolarReserve
www.solarreserve.com](http://www.solarreserve.com)

The Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project is a 110 MW plant located near Tonopah, Nevada. Once constructed, it will power up to 75,000 homes during peak electricity periods.

Building a Solar Economy: 4 Lessons from Hawaii

Erin L. McCoy, News Analysis: The solar era has begun: the industry is booming, prices are dropping, and solar energy at last seems poised to help topple the climate-altering dominance of fossil fuels. But bringing it to the masses won't be as simple as just soaking up the sun. To gain a better picture of the challenges to come—and of some possible solutions—electric companies and solar developers throughout the nation are watching Hawaii, which derives a larger fraction of its electricity from the sun than any other state. Homeowners and businesses have led the charge here, something that distinguishes Hawaii from other states at the forefront of solar, like Nevada and Arizona, which depend more heavily on large-scale installations.

[READ](#) | [DISCUSS](#) | [SHARE](#)

In Sign of Global Warming, 1,600 Years of Ice in Peru's Andes Melted in 25 Years

Glacial ice in the Peruvian Andes that took at least 1,600 years to form has melted in just 25 years, scientists reported Thursday, the latest indication that the recent spike in global temperatures has thrown the natural world out of balance.

The evidence comes from a remarkable find at the margins of the [Quelccaya ice cap](#) in [Peru](#), the world's largest tropical ice sheet. Rapid melting there in the modern era is uncovering plants that were locked in a deep freeze when the glacier advanced many thousands of years ago.

Dating of those plants, using a radioactive form of carbon in the plant tissues that decays at a known rate, has given scientists an unusually precise method of determining the history of the ice sheet's margins.

[Lonnie G. Thompson](#), the [Ohio State University](#) glaciologist whose team has worked intermittently on the Quelccaya ice cap for decades, reported the findings in a [paper](#) released online Thursday by the journal *Science*.

The paper includes a long-awaited analysis of chemical tracers in ice cylinders the team recovered by drilling deep into Quelccaya, a record that will aid scientists worldwide in reconstructing past climatic variations.

Such analyses will take time, but Dr. Thompson said preliminary evidence shows, for example, that the earth probably went through a period of anomalous weather at around the time of the French Revolution, which began in 1789. The weather presumably contributed to the food shortages that exacerbated that upheaval.

"When there's a disruption of food, this is bad news for any government," Dr. Thompson said in an interview.

Of greater immediate interest, Dr. Thompson and his team have expanded on previous research involving long-dead plants emerging from the melting ice at the edge of Quelccaya, a huge, flat ice cap sitting on a volcanic plain 18,000 feet above sea level.

Several years ago, the team reported on plants that had been exposed near a meltwater lake. Chemical analysis showed them to be about 4,700 years old, proving that the ice cap had reached its smallest extent in nearly five millenniums.

In the new research, a thousand feet of additional melting has exposed plants that laboratory analysis shows to be about 6,300 years old. The simplest interpretation, Dr. Thompson said, is that ice that accumulated over approximately 1,600 years melted back in no more than 25 years.

"If any time in the last 6,000 years these plants had been exposed for any five-year period, they would have decayed," Dr. Thompson said. "That tells us the ice cap had to be there 6,000 years ago."

Meredith A. Kelly, a glacial geomorphologist at Dartmouth College who trained under Dr. Thompson but was not involved in the new paper, said his interpretation of the plant remains was reasonable.

Her own research on Quelccaya suggests that the margins of the glacier have melted quite rapidly at times in the past. But the melting now under way appears to be at least as fast, if not faster, than anything in the geological record since the end of the last ice age, she said.

Global warming, which scientists say is being caused primarily by the human release of greenhouse gases, is having its largest effects at high latitudes and high altitudes. Sitting at high elevation in the tropics, the Quelccaya ice cap appears to be extremely sensitive to the temperature changes, several scientists said.

“It may not go very quickly because there’s so much ice, but we might have already locked into a situation where we are committed to losing that ice,” said Mathias Vuille, a climate scientist at the State University at Albany in New York.

Throughout the Andes, glaciers are now melting so rapidly that scientists have grown deeply concerned about water supplies for the people living there. Glacial meltwater is essential for helping Andean communities get through the dry season.

In the short run, the melting is producing an increase of water supplies and feeding population growth in major cities of the Andes, the experts said. But as the glaciers continue shrinking, trouble almost certainly looms.

Douglas R. Hardy, a University of Massachusetts researcher who works in the region, said, “How much time do we have before 50 percent of Lima’s or La Paz’s water resources are gone?”

A version of this article appeared in print on April 5, 2013, on page A4 of the New York edition with the headline

Judge temporarily blocks fracking on Central Coast

VIRGINIA HENNESSEY, Monterey County Herald

Nearly 20,000 acres of prime Central Coast farm and ranch land may be protected at least temporarily from oil and gas "fracking" due to a federal judge's "watershed" ruling.

CA Judge Rules Fracking Needs Further Investigation

Marissa Pendergrass, KION NOW

Thousands of acres sold too soon. That's what a federal judge said on Sunday about tons of precious oil rich land on the Central Coast.

