

Honorable Board Members of the San Francisco Employee Retirement System,

We the undersigned, call on the Board to initiate a process for determining a prudent divestment and exclusion strategy for fossil fuel reserve owners that responsibly reduces the pension portfolio's exposure to carbon risk and mitigates financial risks resulting from climate change, consistent with your fiduciary duty. In short, we ask that you vote, on January 24th, to divest from fossil fuels.

**We are issuing this call to action in the wake of the divestment announcement from the world's financial center and fourth largest pension system, New York City.** As the New York City divestment resolutions states, *“the issue of climate change is already having and will continue to have a profound impact on our society and economy; current and future changes in risk, regulations, and attitudes towards the use of fossil fuels should be taken into account as we evaluate our investment portfolio.”*

As you know, New York joins San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Marin, San Mateo, San Diego, and soon the city of Los Angeles, in filing lawsuits to hold specific fossil fuel companies accountable for contributing to more frequent crises like wildfires, droughts and strong storms.

The risks associated with fossil fuel investments are now far beyond what a prudent pension system should sustain.

**Research shows that the carbon embedded in existing fossil fuel production will take us far beyond safe climate limits.** Thus, not only are new exploration and new production incompatible with the Paris climate accord and limiting global warming to well below 2°C (and as close to 1.5°C as possible), but many existing projects will need to be phased-out faster than their natural decline. Simply put: there is no more room for new fossil fuel projects and therefore no case for ongoing investment.

Continued expansion of oil, coal, and gas is only serving to hinder the inevitable transition while at the same time exacerbating conflicts, fuelling corruption, threatening biodiversity, clean water and air, and infringing on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable countries and communities.

The late Mayor Ed Lee was confident the pension board would do the right thing and vote to be *“one of the first major cities in the nation to divest from the fossil fuel industry.”* And one of the largest city employee unions, SEIU 1021, has publicly supported fossil fuel divestment.

Current and future investments in fossil fuel production are at odds with a safe and equitable transition away from ever stronger climate disasters. Next Wednesday, please vote YES.

Sincerely,

**May Boeve**, Executive Director  
350.org

**Michael Brune**, Executive Director  
Sierra Club

**Bob Musil**, President & CEO  
Rachel Carson Council

**Ross Hammond**, US Campaigns Director  
Stand.earth

**Stephen Kretzmann**, Executive Director  
Oil Change International

**Tom Athanasiou**, Executive Director  
EcoEquity

**Michael Marx**, Executive Director  
Corporate Ethics International

**Dan Jacobson**, State Director  
Environment California

**Murshed Zaheed**, Political Director  
CREDO

**Patrick McCully**, Climate & Energy  
Program Director  
Rainforest Action Network

**Rob Sargent**, Energy Program Director  
Environment America

**John Cavanagh**, Director  
Institute for Policy Studies

**Chuck Collins**, Author and Senior Scholar  
Institute for Policy Studies

**Candice Kim**, Climate Campaign Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

**Leah Qusba**, Deputy Director  
Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)

**Mark Magana**, President & CEO  
GreenLatinos

**Mary Gutierrez**, Executive Director  
Earth Action, Inc.

**Heather C. McGhee**, President  
Demos

**Deborah Silvey**, Board Chair  
Fossil Free California

**Jack Lucero Fleck**, Steering Committee  
350 Bay Area