

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

AUGUST 26, 2019



Committees

- ▶ **One of only a handful of Members on 4 Committees**
- ▶ **Transportation & Infrastructure**
 - ▶ Sustainably maintain and improve the transportation and infrastructure in our country to best ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, and ideas
- ▶ **Education & Labor**
 - ▶ Ensure that Americans' needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy
- ▶ **Oversight & Reform**
 - ▶ Main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ▶ **Rules**
 - ▶ Power over which bills are considered on the floor and influence over procedure

Government's Role in Protecting Our Environment

Congress

- ▶ **Legislation** – Congress has the ability to pass laws intended to **protect our air, water, wildlife, and land**. Examples:
 - ▶ Clean Air Act
 - ▶ Clean Water Act
 - ▶ Endangered Species Act
 - ▶ Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act
- ▶ **Oversight and Enforcement** – Congress has an oversight role over federal agencies. Congress carries out this function by holding **hearings and conducting oversight** of agency enforcement operations, functions, and policies

Government's Role in Protecting Our Environment

Executive Branch

- ▶ **Regulations** - Administrative agencies create regulations on the environment. They go through a mandatory public comment period. Examples under the **Obama Administration**:
 - ▶ EPA's Clean Power Plan
 - ▶ EPA and NHTSA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for light-duty vehicles
 - ▶ DoI's Methane and Waste Prevention Rule
- ▶ **Guidance** – Administrative agencies also have the ability to **clarify rules** through “guidance” that is non-binding and go through no comment period
- ▶ **Enforcement/Litigation** – Administrative agencies have the power to enforce laws and regulations that fall under their jurisdiction through **civil penalties and litigation**. Example:
 - ▶ EPA's civil enforcement against Volkswagen

Trump Rollbacks: By the Numbers

	49	34	83
	ROLLBACKS COMPLETED	ROLLBACKS IN PROCESS	TOTAL ROLLBACKS
 Air pollution and emissions	10	12	22
 Drilling and extraction	9	9	18
 Infrastructure and planning	12	1	13
 Animals	8	2	10
 Toxic substances and safety	3	2	5
 Water pollution	4	3	7
 Other	3	5	8

Trump Administration Rollbacks

Since taking office in January 2017, President Trump has attempted to roll back **83** environmental regulations, including:

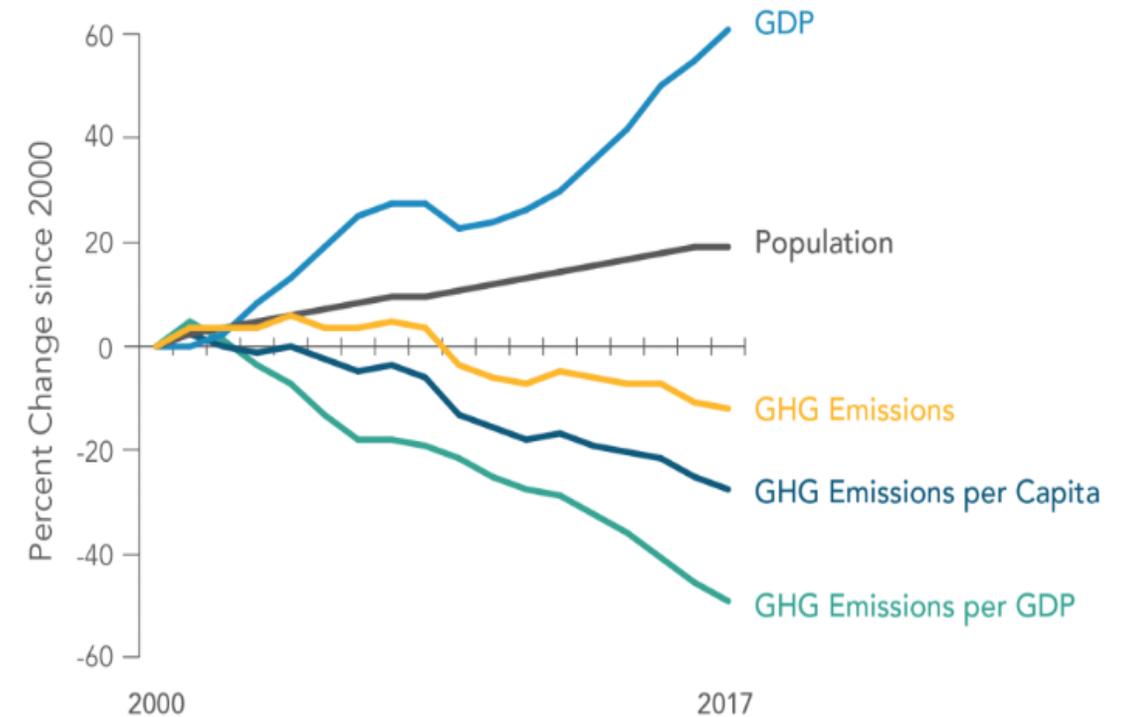
- ▶ **July 25, 2017: Oil and Gas Fracking Rule** – Required disclosure of chemicals and other details of fracking operations
- ▶ **Oct. 5, 2017: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure** – Required states to track and reduce carbon dioxide emissions on the national highway system
- ▶ **Oct. 16, 2017: Clean Power Plan** – Required coal-burning power plants to reduce carbon emissions
- ▶ **Mar. 15, 2018: Coal Ash Disposal Rule** – Ensured that states conducted groundwater monitoring for coal waste and that professional engineers certified coal ash storage compliance

Trump Administration Rollbacks

- ▶ **July 25, 2018: Endangered Species Act** – The rollback would limit protections for “threatened” species as opposed to “endangered” species
- ▶ **Aug. 24, 2018: Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards** – Required automobile manufacturers to nearly double the fuel economy of passenger vehicles to an average of more than 50 mpg by 2025
- ▶ **Sept. 11, 2018: Methane Rule** – Regulated methane emissions from new oil and gas wells
- ▶ **Dec. 12, 2018: Waters of the United States (“WOTUS”)** – Broadly defined “Waters of the United States,” which are protected under the Clean Water Act, to include isolated waters and streams that flow for part of the year nearby wetlands

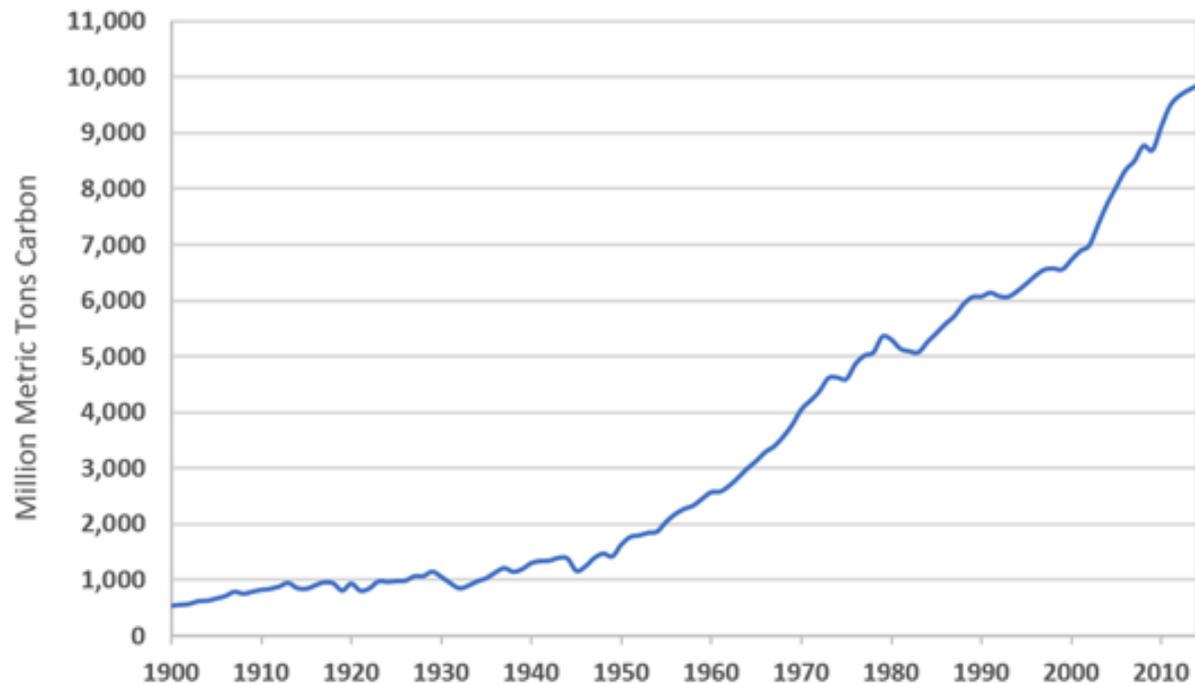
California's Green Facts

- ▶ California's major climate policies and programs have resulted in a net gain of more than **\$13 billion** and more than **37,000 jobs**
- ▶ California had more than **519,000 jobs** in clean energy in 2017, with **Contra Costa** in the state's **top ten counties** for those jobs
- ▶ In 2017, GHG emissions decreased by **five million metric tons** from 2016 as the state's economy grew ahead of the national average



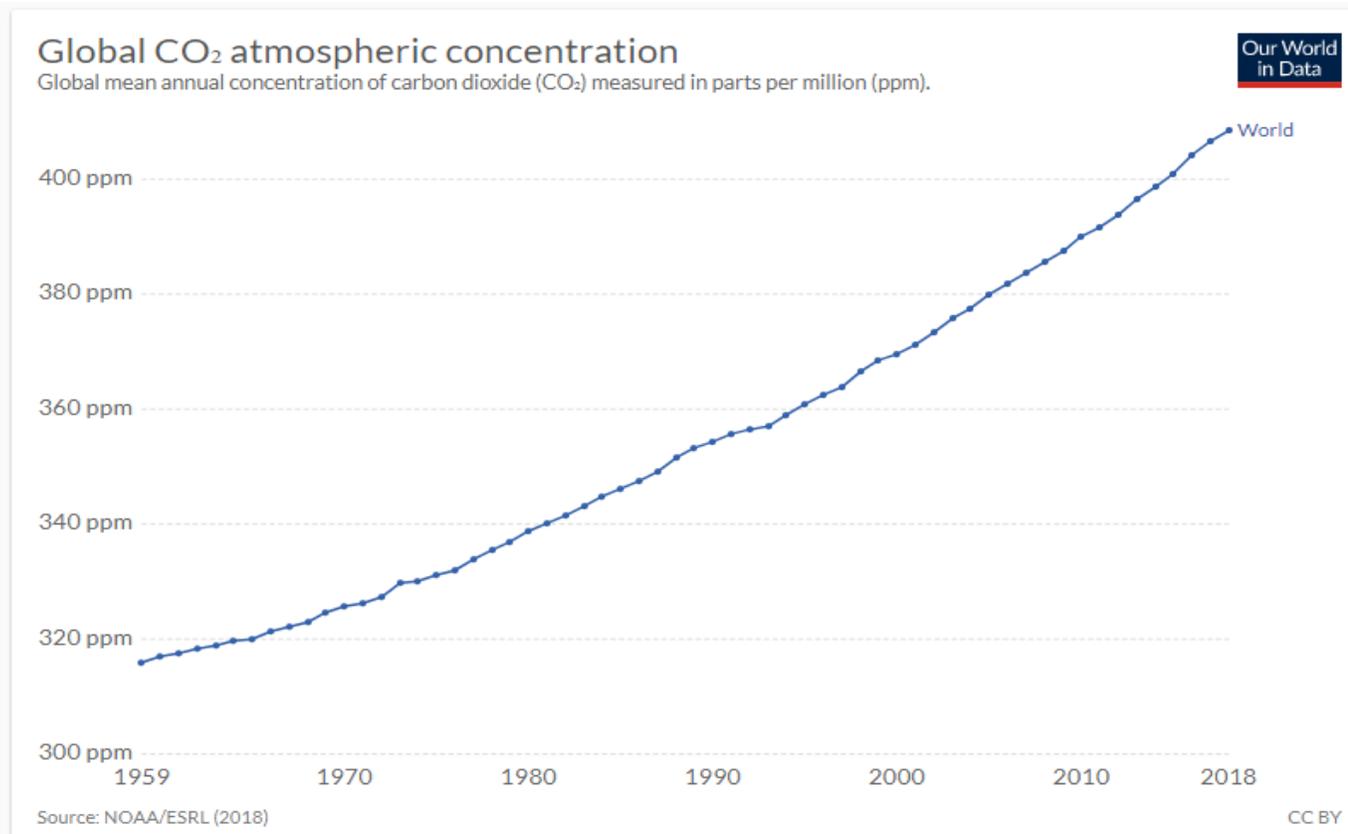
Global CO₂ Emissions

Global Carbon Emissions from Fossil Fuels, 1900-2014



- Since 1970, CO₂ emissions have increased by about **90%**
- **1900 Levels:** 534 million metric tons of carbon
- **2014 Levels:** 9,855 million metric tons of carbon

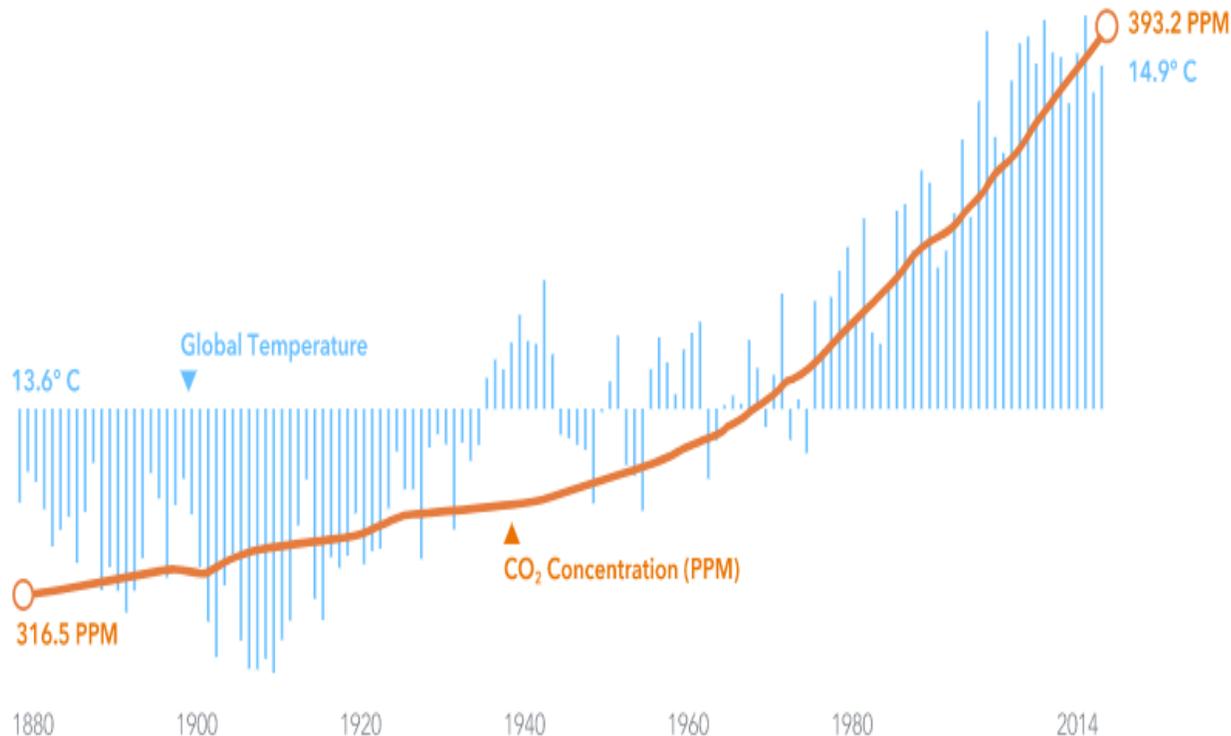
Global CO₂ Atmospheric Concentrations



- Global CO₂ atmospheric concentrations have **increased by 92.55 ppm in only 59 years**
- **1959 Concentrations:** 315.97 ppm
- **2018 Concentrations:** 408.52 ppm

Global Temperatures and CO₂ Concentrations

GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE & CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION



- The global annual average temperature has been **steadily rising, increasing more than 1.5° F** since 1880
- The majority of warming at the global scale over the past **50 years** is due to **human influences** like burning fossil fuels and deforestation

Timeline: California's Renewable Standards

- ▶ **1998**: California Energy Commission establishes the **Renewable Energy Program** to help increase total renewable electricity production statewide
- ▶ **2002**: California establishes the **Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program** with the goal of increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the state to **20%** by 2017
- ▶ **2011**: Gov. Brown signs into law SB X1-2, revising the 20 percent RPS to **33%** renewable energy by **2020**
- ▶ **2015**: Gov. Brown signs SB 350 into law, requiring retail sellers and publicly owned utilities to procure **50% of the state's electricity** from renewable sources by **2030**

How Green Energy Translates to More Jobs

- ▶ The majority of RPS projects in California are located in areas with **high unemployment**
- ▶ As a result, these new projects have **supported local jobs** and helped **jump-start local economies**
- ▶ **Project Labor Agreements:** PLAs are multi-craft, pre-hire labor agreements that govern labor relations and terms and conditions of employment on an entire construction project
 - ▶ PLAs have played a vital role in California's renewables projects and have ensured that workers are provided **apprenticeship training, health care, and retirement benefits**
 - ▶ In other words, **PLAs have helped put California at the forefront of the green energy wave without leaving workers behind**

We Are Working for You

▶ **Environmental Position**

- ▶ Proud champion of policies that protect the environment and address climate change
- ▶ Firm believer that strong and forward-looking energy and environmental policy is *not* the enemy of economic growth, but a key driver of growth, innovation, and competitiveness
- ▶ Believes that rigorous environmental enforcement and oversight is necessary to ensure proper protections of the health and well-being of Californians

▶ **Combatting Anti-Environment Actions**

- ▶ Active in opposing the Trump Administration, whose misguided actions fly in the face of peer-reviewed science
- ▶ He strongly opposes the Administration's decision to weaken existing fuel efficiency and emissions standards

Legislative Actions to Protect the Environment

Environmental **legislation and resolutions** introduced this Congress:

- ▶ Climate Action Now Act Amendment
- ▶ Clean Corridors Act
- ▶ Moving FIRST Act
- ▶ Clean Cars Resolution

Supported **44 pieces** of environmental legislation so far this year, including:

- ▶ Zero-Emission Vehicles Act
- ▶ Climate Risk Disclosure Act
- ▶ Clean and Efficient Cars Act
- ▶ Frack Pack

Environmental Caucuses and Initiatives

Caucuses & Initiatives:

- ▶ Safe Climate Caucus
- ▶ Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition
- ▶ Earned 100% on the League of Conservation Voters 2016, 2017, and 2018 Scorecards
- ▶ Assisted in the California Global Warming Solutions Act implementation
- ▶ Former member of the California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- ▶ Former member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)

Contact Our Office

Walnut Creek

3100 Oak Road
Suite 110
Walnut Creek, CA
(925) 933-2660

Richmond

440 Civic Center Plaza
Second Floor
Richmond, CA
(510) 620-1000

Washington, DC

503 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC
(202) 225-2095



Facebook: /RepMarkDeSaulnier



Instagram: @RepDeSaulnier



Twitter: @RepDeSaulnier



Website: desaulnier.house.gov