

# Climate Change is Hurting Californians

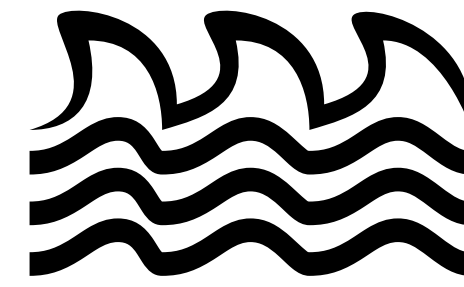
The State of California is being Devastated by Climate Change:



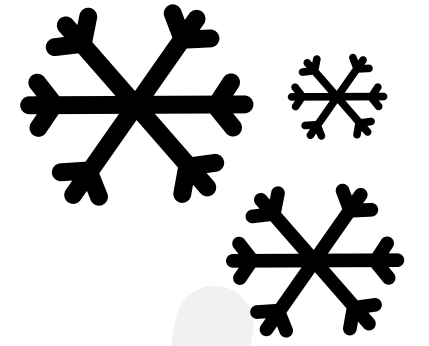
Wildfires cost the state over \$80 billion annually from damage and economic loss.



Flooding threatens \$100 billion in property and infrastructure damage by 2100.



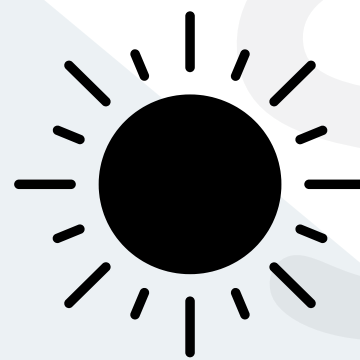
Coastal erosion may soon cost the state \$46 billion per year.



Reduced snowpack and reservoir levels require us to ration drinking water.



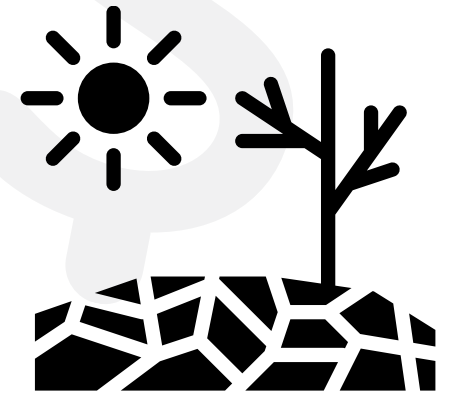
Higher temperatures and less water have damaged our agricultural industry.



Heat waves are driving the need for cooling 60% above present demand.



Extreme heat events are increasing heatstroke, asthma, and other problems.



Prolonged droughts are adversely affecting the state's ecosystems and forests.

## Why Aren't We Taking Drastic Action?

The Fossil Fuel Industry Owns Our Government!

California is the sixth biggest oil producer nationwide and the largest oil refiner in the west. The fossil fuel industry buys politicians to make sure it gets the kind of government policies it wants, contributing \$556,000 to 81 CA legislators in 2021 alone. These include well-known companies with major operations in California, including BP, Chevron, Exxon, Marathon Oil, and Phillips 66. Contributors also include law firms, lobbyists, industry organizations and front groups that are funded by the fossil fuel industry such as the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, and the Western States Petroleum Association.

The Republican leader of the US House Representatives, Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), gets more fossil fuel money than any other politician from California, and the second most in the country (behind Joe Manchin).

### Contributions in 2021-22 to Kevin McCarthy by Industry

Industry	Total	Individuals	PACs
Real Estate	\$255,367	\$242,367	\$13,000
Health Professionals	\$185,900	\$180,900	\$5,000
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>	<b>\$174,462</b>	<b>\$142,962</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>

1 Sacramento Bee, January 4, 2022. [https://account.sacbee.com/paywall/subscriber-only?resume=256744052&intcid=ab\\_archive](https://account.sacbee.com/paywall/subscriber-only?resume=256744052&intcid=ab_archive)  
 2 Data from Open Secrets (opensecrets.org), based on contributions from PACs and individuals associated with the industry giving \$200 or more to candidates and party committees, and from donors (including corporate treasuries) giving to super PACs and other outside groups, as reported to the Federal Election Commission. Data accessed on January 27, 2022.

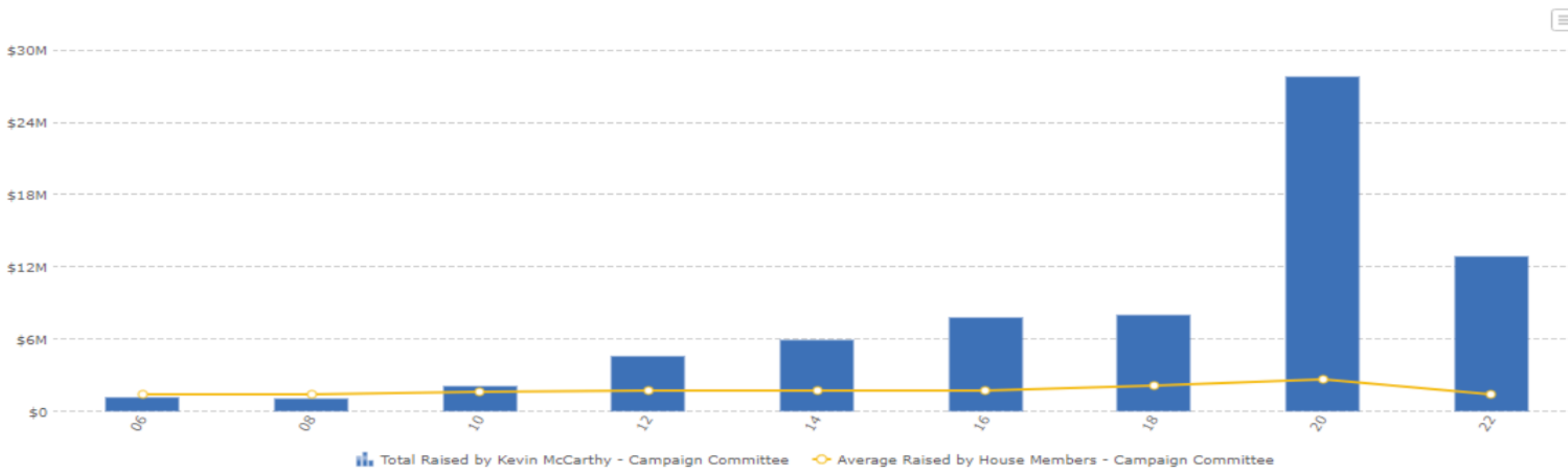
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McCarthy's Top Individual Contributors in the Latest Campaign Cycle are also from this Industry

Contributor	Total	Source of Profits
Enterprise Products Partners	\$23,010	"...a leading North American provider of midstream energy services to producers and consumers of natural gas, natural gas liquids ("NGLs"), crude oil, refined products and petrochemicals."
Jaco Oil Co	\$17,400	"We ...are engaged and focused on providing safe, affordable, abundant fuel and convenience items for the people in our communities."

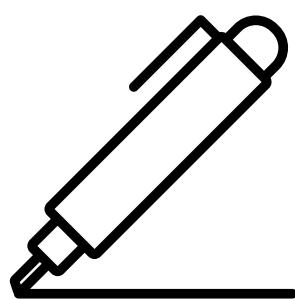
## McCarthy Raised 10 times More Money than the Average Member of the House

Total Raised vs. Average Raised



Many of our state representatives are also beholden to the oil and gas industry, including Democrats. For example, Democrat senators Ben Hueso, Andreas Borgeas, and Bob Hertzberg strongly opposed a bill proposing a buffer around drilling sites (AB 345) and voted against it. Each received high dollar contributions and other support from oil interests that lobbied against the bill, including the Western States Petroleum Association, Chevron, Phillips 66, BP, and the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, a fossil fuel industry front group.

## What can you or your organization do?



Press candidates for federal, state, and local office to make a public pledge not to accept campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry.



Find out which of your federal, state, and local representatives receive donations from the fossil fuel industry. (Suggested sources: OpenSecrets for federal candidates, Follow the Money for state candidates. Check your local government election finance office for information on local candidates.)



If your representative votes against meaningful action to curb greenhouse gases, write a letter to the editor pointing out that their vote was influenced by the interests of their campaign donors, not by the people they represent.



SoCal Chapter

Join organizations such as Elders Climate Action (<https://www.eldersclimateaction.org>) to point out that their vote is being influenced by the interests of their campaign donors, not by the people they are supposed to represent. This factsheet was compiled by Richard from Elders Climate Action- Southern California Chapter and he can be reached at [richardb@eldersclimateaction.org](mailto:richardb@eldersclimateaction.org).

The Stop Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Action Team of the U.S. Climate Action Network (USCAN) is focused on building broader awareness of the degree to which the political influence of the fossil fuel industry acts as an impediment to addressing climate change and undoing the industry's long legacy of environmental racism and injustice. We produce and disseminate a series of factsheets and other materials to inform and engage the public on this subject. This is our factsheet in the series related to the state of California.