

350Marin opposes the Costco proposed mega 28-pump gas station in front of the Novato Costco Store in the Vintage Oaks Shopping Center, next to a *near-pristine watershed and wildlife area*. <https://www.novato.org/government/community-development/planning-division/planning-projects/costco-fuel-facility>

### **Fossil fuel emissions from human activity are driving up Earth's temperature.**

The concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is set to exceed 417 parts per million for several weeks this year. Carbon concentration was 280 parts per million at the beginning of the industrial revolution. Scientists from NASA warned us that to keep a stable, safe Climate for our civilization to thrive, we should not pass 350 parts per million. [https://grist.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/targetco2\\_20080317.pdf](https://grist.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/targetco2_20080317.pdf) **Carbon dioxide levels today are higher than at any point in at least the past 800,000 years.** <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide>

We are in a Climate Crisis and facing a Climate Emergency with record-breaking temperatures, drought, extreme destructive wildfires and air pollution in California! If we take action now, we could still slow, hold or even reverse Climate Chaos by transition in emergency speed to a green and clean energy economy. **If we go on with business-as-usual heating is going to reach a tipping point, multiple feedback loops will cause chain reactions and Climate Change will become irreversible and out of human control.** <https://feedbackloopsclimate.com/>

**In this context, approving the Costco Mega Gas Station is counterproductive to transitioning to a clean and green economy and taking Novato's Climate Emergency Resolution seriously.** Novato's City Council Members declared a Climate Emergency on 11.10.2020 and voted unanimously for a resolution that stated on page four:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The next President of America Joe Biden declared climate change the "number one issue facing humanity" ... The City of Novato will elevate climate issues in its goal setting process; *give precedence to climate mitigation and adaptation when evaluating policies and purchases, planning for projects, and allocating resources; and will seek financial resources to support these efforts.*" <https://www.novato.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=31984>

In committing to combat Climate Chaos, it is inappropriate for the city to approve this new mega fossil fuel installation, which would provide gasoline for a discount price for Costco members and keep dirty CO<sub>2</sub> emitting transportation alive. It is counterproductive to transitioning to a clean and green economy. **Transportation makes up 56% of greenhouse gas emissions in Novato. Electrifying transportation is key to reducing GHG.** <https://marinclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Novato-2018-GHG-Inventory-Report.pdf> Climate change is an existential threat. The Costco mega gas station project is entirely incompatible with the Novato Climate Emergency Resolution.

Burning of fossil fuels increases heat trapping greenhouse gases emission, causing global heating. The extraction, transportation and treatment in refineries is "dirty business". **Oil and gas wells, pipelines and storage tanks are creating toxic sites, polluting soil, water and air all across America.** Native Americans, Black, Brown and low-income communities bear the brunt of this dirty energy business. Their communities have to live in close proximity to fossil fuel infrastructures, suffer from poor health and low life expectancy and are hit first, foremost and hardest when climate disaster strikes.

<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/climate-change/vulnerable-populations>

**Novato doesn't need more gas stations.** Novato has 12 gas stations citywide, and 3 gas stations nearby (Chevron, Matt & Jeff's, and a Shell gas station on the other side of the freeway on Redwood Blvd.) This Costco gas station will harm the business of these existing gas stations by providing discounted gas to Costco members, and could reduce city revenues.

**Gas stations are toxic sites.** Researchers at Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, and Arid Technology study published September 2018 concluded that gas station toxic fume emissions are 10 times higher than thought. This is a public health concern, as unburned fuel chemicals such as benzene, toluene, ethyl-benzene, and xylenes are harmful to humans. Benzene is of special concern because it is causally associated with different types of cancer. In California, there is a setback regulation of 300 feet from large gas stations. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181004110021.htm>

Gasoline leaks happen at gas stations every day. As people fill up their gas tanks gasoline drips from the nozzle onto the ground and vapors leak from the open gas tank into the air. <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/gasoline/gasoline-and-the-environment.php>  
A Costco mega gas station will put the health of workers, shoppers and local wildlife at risk.

**Low-lying ground will be affected by sea level rise.** City of Novato General Plan 2035 Policy White Paper SEA LEVEL RISE AND ADAPTATION March 2015 states:

Appendix A Novato's Levees and Shorelines Section A: Vintage Oaks  
"Threatened by sea level rise, this plaza is vulnerable on low-lying ground throughout the property." [http://www2.pacinst.org/reports/sea\\_level\\_rise/hazmaps/Novato.pdf](http://www2.pacinst.org/reports/sea_level_rise/hazmaps/Novato.pdf)

**High water table.** Groundwater in the project area is at approximately 10 feet and is as shallow as 3 to 5 feet, depending on the underlying soil. [https://www.novato.org/government/community-development/planning\\_division/planning-projects/costco-fuel-facility](https://www.novato.org/government/community-development/planning_division/planning-projects/costco-fuel-facility)

All or most of that shopping center was built on bay mud. It was all a former tidal marsh. Buildings on bay mud are extremely susceptible to liquefaction from earthquakes. Liquefaction is most likely to happen in reclaimed land. Areas with shallow water tables and close to the sea or rivers are also susceptible to liquefaction. UST are notorious for leaking and the liquefaction/earthquake hazard increases the likelihood of this happening. <https://www.britannica.com/science/soil-liquefaction>

**Car traffic increases.** A mega gas station in the Vintage Oaks Shopping Center will cause traffic jams, which increases CO2 emissions and air pollution. Costco's long gas station lines are notorious. This project would eliminate 119 parking spaces in front of the store. This parking lot is currently congested and a one-acre gas station site in the prime parking area will only make things worse as people circle the area looking for parking or sit in idling cars waiting for a space to open up. <https://www.businessinsider.com/costco-gas-why-not-to-buy-2019-7?op=1>

**Loss of bicycle lanes and pedestrian areas.** This project would turn current bike lanes and pedestrian areas into parking spaces. Rowland Blvd. would be reconfigured, adding a 110-foot-

wide, two-way multi-use path on the east side of the street, replacing existing Class II bicycle lanes, and a 4-foot-wide pedestrian area adjacent to the bicycle path.

<https://www.novato.org/government/community-development/planning-division/planning-projects/costco-fuel-facility>

**Costco's proposed 28- pump gas station, if built, would be the largest gas station in Marin County.** This mega gas station promotes short-term financial gain at the expense of already constructed local stations. We urge you to consider the price taxpayers, next generations and the environment will have to pay if this project is approved.

On September 23, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced an [executive order ending sales of new gas-powered cars in the state by 2035.](#)

[https://calmatters.org/environment/2020/09/california-ban-gasoline-powered-cars-in-2035/?mc\\_cid=90c65cb11d&mc\\_eid=f0298cda1c](https://calmatters.org/environment/2020/09/california-ban-gasoline-powered-cars-in-2035/?mc_cid=90c65cb11d&mc_eid=f0298cda1c)

**What is needed is to build a livable future for our children and grandchildren by transitioning to 100% clean and renewable energy.** We have to decarbonize our economy immediately by electrifying transportation, private and business infrastructures as quickly as possible. Scientists urge people and governments of cities, counties, states, and countries to target net-zero emission in five to ten years to combat Climate Chaos and to avoid a catastrophic 'Hothouse Earth'.

<https://www.climaterealitycheck.net/>