

Okay, if [Jonathan](#) and [Tim](#) are going to go there, I feel compelled to follow up as a former performing musician. Plus, someone has to mention a song written after 1974.

Here are mine:

10. *"Earth Song"* by Michael Jackson. Yes, I know, but the guy did just die, and this song is as explicitly pro-environmental as you're ever going to get.
9. *"Come Monday"* by Jimmy Buffett. "I spent four lonely days in a brown L.A. haze and I just want you back by my side." Arguably the most successful L.A. smog reference in a song.
8. *"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"* by Jack Johnson. It's a children's song, but you can't beat it for direct messaging.
7. *"Don't Drink the Water"* by Dave Matthews Band. Kind of a combo anti-colonialism pro-environmental tune, with the basic point being that environmental destruction is cosmic punishment for mistreating people. Or feel free to draw your own conclusion.
6. *"Bad Moon Rising"* by Creedence Clearwater Revival. Not sure if this song is more applicable to climate change or efforts to repeal climate change legislation in California.
5. *"Horizon Has Been Defeated"* by Jack Johnson. A cautionary tale about technology from this Hawaiian-born surfer/filmmaker/musician/super mellow guy.
4. *"Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)"* by Marvin Gaye. Feel free to play along with Marvin during your late night bongo sessions.
3. *"Rocky Mountain High"* by John Denver. If this doesn't make you want to sit around the campfire with friends, nothing will. I assume that when John sings "everybody's high," he's referring to the altitude of the Rockies.
2. *"Traffic in the Sky"* by Jack Johnson. Eerily, he wrote this song in New York right before 9/11 and couldn't bring himself to play it for years after that day. It's a great meditation on the perils of short term thinking. "You keep adding stones, soon the water will be lost in the well."
1. *"Big Yellow Taxi"* by Joni Mitchell. I'm with Jonathan on this one.

I'm also convinced that "Mass. v. EPA" would make a great song one day. Did I miss any?

UPDATE: YouTubes after the jump:

[youtube=[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOnL5c8LMqM&hl=en\\_US&fs=1&](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOnL5c8LMqM&hl=en_US&fs=1&)]

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