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June 20, 2015

# OIL-BY-RAIL POSES UNACCECTABLE HEALTH HAZARDS

TO: SLO County decision makers

FROM: **Central Coast Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants**

1198 Lexington Ct

San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401

Phillips 66 is fighting to upgrade its Santa Maria refinery to begin receiving oil trains carrying highly explosive oil extracted from Canadian Tar Sands. If approved by the San Luis Obispo (SLO) Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors, more of these bomb trains will start barreling through SLO County, through highly populated city centers, residential and commercial developments, Cal Poly and extremely close by elementary schools, like San Benito in Atascadero.

Tens of thousands of lives will not only be at risk from derailments and/or explosions (there was more oil spilled from trains in 2013 than in the previous 40 years combined, according to federal data, www.mcclatchydc.com), but at perhaps a greater risk from the insidious effects of increased train traffic. Increased air pollution, including diesel particulate matter, and increased train noise drive many adverse health impacts.

As health care professionals, the Central Coast Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants (CCNPPA), we oppose the proposed project on the basis of very serious, credible threats to the health of County residents, thousands of whom are our patients, thousands of whom live in close proximity to the rail lines. A thorough review of health data published in peer-reviewed medical journals by Oregon and Washington states' Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and summarized in a statement, released January 2015, spell out the shocking direct

health threat posed by oil-by-rail, other than derailment, explosions and fire. (www.psr.org)

"Locomotives, being powered by diesel fuel, emit a large amount of particulate pollution in their exhaust (PSR)." Inhalation of diesel particulates leads to a gamut of diseases, including cancer, particularly of the lung and breast; asthma and obstructive lung disease; heart attack and stroke.

"In children, diesel pollution is linked to higher rates of neuro-developmental disorders, impaired lung development and increased development of asthma. Exposure as an infant leads to lifelong disease and disability."

Several studies referenced by PSR, have documented the adverse health impacts of train noise and vibration, including sleep disturbance, cognitive impairment, cardiovascular disease and psychiatric disorder. "Noise and vibrational effects from rail traffic vary from idling, screeching, and horn sounding. Horn sounding poses the most significant risk to human health."

These mile-long trains carrying millions of gallons of volatile oil in unsafe tank cars pose an unacceptable threat to human health and safety. We urge SLO decision makers to do their due diligence and to reject Phillips 66's expansion proposal.

Tom Comar, VicePresident, CCNPPA

tcomar@ccnppa.org

5525 Cascabel road

Atascadero, Ca. 93422

805-610-0367

**Subject:** Phillips 66 oil train

**From:** Linda White (lindaleewhite15@gmail.com)

**To:** protectslo@calnurses.org;

**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2015 1:04 PM

June 19, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission

I am a 45 year resident of San Luis Obispo. After my ex-husband's graduated from Cal Poly, I decided to stay in SLO to raise my two children. I don't have to list the reasons because we are all well aware of the attractions of our county.

As a resident of the City of San Luis Obispo, as a retired registered nurse, as a retired Real Estate Broker, as a local business owner, I am strongly opposed to the Phillips 66 expansion.

I expect our County Planning Commission and County Supervisors to do the right thing to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our residents and to reject the Phillips 66 expansion.

Linda White

2077 Slack St.

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

**Subject:** Stop Oil Trains

**From:** Linda Sachs (ljsachs1593@gmail.com)

**To:** ProtectSLO@calnurses.org;

**Cc:** jfsachslaws@charter.net;

**Date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2015 10:37 AM

Dear SLO County Planning Commission,

My name is Linda Sachs, and my husband, John, and I live at 1593 8th St., in Los Osos. We have been residents of San Luis Obispo County for over 30 years. We are totally against the County allowing a permit for the Phillips 66 oil train project. The health and safety of our family and all our neighbors would be at risk from an oil train derailment, explosion, fire, or spill. We see absolutely no benefit to County residents from this project, and with 30% of SLO County residents living in the blast zone, including twenty-nine K-12 schools, it makes no sense at all to allow this project to go forward.

Please do the right thing and deny the permit for the Phillips 66 oil train project.

Sincerely,
John and Linda Sachs

**Subject:** STOP OIL TRAINS

**From:** Linda Pax (lindapax@gmail.com)

**To:** ProtectSLO@calnurses.org;

**Date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2015 12:32 PM

Dear SLO County Planning Commission,

I am Linda Pax, a retired elementary school teacher. I live at 426 Woodbridge St which is within the blast zone in San Luis Obispo. I am very strongly opposed to the Phillips 66 oil train project. The life and health of my family, my home and the value of my property, and the quality of the air I and my neighbors breathe would all be hugely risked if a permit is granted.

Diesel pollution and the risks of a catastrophic train derailment and explosion/fire are not acceptable. I am urging you to deny permission for Phillips 66 to build a rail terminal. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely, Linda Pax