CITY OF GOLETA

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June 9, 2015

CITY COUNCIL

Paula Perotte
Mayor

Jim Farr
Mayor Pro Tempore

Roger S. Aceves
Councilmember

Michael T. Bennett
Councilmember

Tony Vallejo
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER
Michelle Greene

Honorable Planning Commissioners
San Luis Obispo County
c/o James A. Bergman, Director of Planning and Building
976 Los Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project

Dear Honorable Chair and Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to relay the City of Goleta's concern for public safety and the environmental risks and public safety arising from the proposed Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project ("Project"). We respectfully request that the City's concerns be included as part of your evaluation of the merits of the Project.

The Project, however, proposes to expand the capacity of the Santa Maria Refinery located in Nipomo, California, to accept crude oil from outside of the region, transported into the refinery via rail, as opposed to pipeline transport. The Project directly affects the City of Goleta and our residents.

The proposed transport to market includes two routes, one of which runs through the center of Goleta. The hazards associated with crude oil rail transport are well documented within the environmental impact report for the Project and puts our public, sensitive creek habitats, and environment at unnecessary risk.

Each crude oil train could carry more than two million gallons of crude oil, exposing our community to almost 11,000,000 gallons of hazardous and potentially explosive oil product each week. The trains traveling through Goleta and the region would stretch over a mile long, paralleling major transportation corridors such as Highway 101 and Hollister Avenue, through the densely populated Old Town area of Goleta, and adjacent to our high-tech business center and research park area. Hundreds of homes exist or are currently under construction adjacent to the rail corridor with hundreds more soon to be constructed in the same vicinity. The rail line parallels Ellwood Elementary School, a

fire station under pre-construction design, a proposed California Highway Patrol facility, an electrical peaker plant, an oil and gas processing plant, and underground oil and gas pipelines.

Equally significant, the rail intersects each of the City's twelve sensitive creeks just upstream from the Pacific Ocean. The creeks connect to the ocean via biologically rich estuaries, hosting numerous special status plants, fish, birds, and other wildlife species. The creeks are important to both ecosystem health and community values. Any oil spill could devastate these critical resources and harm our sensitive coastal ecosystem. We have recently seen the devastation an oil spill can do to these resources and do not want a repeat of those events.

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Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and request regarding this Project. Please ensure that we are aware of future public meetings related to the Project and do not hesitate to contact me at (805)961-7500 or the City's staff contact, Anne Wells, at (805)961-7557 or awells@cityofgoleta.org if you have questions or comments regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

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cc: Hannah-Beth Jackson, California State Senator
Das Williams, California Assembly Member
Goleta City Councilmembers
Michelle Greene, Goleta City Manager
Tim Giles, Goleta City Attorney

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- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

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X ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

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City of Goleta
Planning & Environmental Review Department
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B
Goleta, CA 93117

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