City of San Leandro
Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577

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February 12, 2015

Mr. Murray Wilson
Department of Planning and Building
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Dear Planning Commissioners:

As Mayor of the City of San Leandro I would like to express my concerns regarding the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. In particular, the City is concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic through many densely populated areas, including San Leandro, and the risk it poses to our city, which is bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks (UPRR).

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the entire Bay Area, not to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. An incident involving an oil unit train from this project could result in the closure of multiple crossings at the same time, affecting both emergency response and traffic. Homes, schools, parks, and businesses are located adjacent to the Union Pacific tracks which traverse San Leandro within the one-mile US Department of Transportation Potential Impact Zone in the case of an oil train derailment or fire.

The RDEIR also did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area, which includes oil transport through San Leandro from Canada to the San Luis Obispo County facility. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed acceptable thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease. Therefore, this project would directly compromise the health and safety of our communities along the rail route in San Leandro.
I respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,

Pauline Russo Cutter

Pauline Russo Cutter
Mayor, City of San Leandro

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of San Leandro
Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577-3782

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