



San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I write on behalf of the board members of *Clean & Green Pomona*, who unanimously and vehemently oppose the proposed Phillips 66 Rail Spur Extension Project for the Santa Maria Refinery. This project, if approved by your body, will make it inevitable for crude oil to be transported by rail through the center of many California cities. Pomona is one of those cities whose people will be put at a potentially deadly and entirely unnecessary risk of increased air pollutant emissions, as well as the potential for train derailments and explosions resulting from your approval of this project. One of the proposed routes is along a Union Pacific Railroad that is heavily used by both passenger trains and freight trains. This rail line runs through the heart of Pomona with densely populated communities, schools, and thriving business districts.

Clean & Green Pomona is a community-based board working towards improving environmental quality, safety, and appearance in Pomona, particularly associated with industrial activities within the city. According to the California Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), Pomona ranks among the communities with the highest pollution burden in the state. Our residents are exposed to cumulative pollution burdens well in excess of state averages. The bulk of this burden is the result of regional transportation impacts from highways, as well as rail traffic. The applicant for your request (Phillips 66) admits that their project will introduce “significant and unavoidable” levels of toxic sulfur dioxide and other carcinogens into the environment along the mainline rail route (Impact #AQ.3 in the draft EIR). We find the proposed mitigation measures to be unacceptable, as the *cumulative* impact of pollution burdens originating from a plurality of sources, is the health issue of greatest concerns by health officials at OEHHA.

In addition to concerns of air pollutants, there have been an increasing number of train accidents involving oil tank cars, as documented in a recent National Geographic article (Nunez, 2015). An oil train accident would have catastrophic effects if it resulted in an explosion or major leak within our city. The primary source of the petroleum expected to be transported by rail through our country is from the Canadian tar sands and Bakken (North Dakota) formations, which the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has determined to be more flammable than traditional heavy crude oil. When oil trains carrying this more hazardous oil derail, not only does the oil spill, but it also often explodes. News reports have shown that as oil train transport has increased, so has the likelihood of property damage, hazardous contamination and loss of life from explosions. Given the number of recent explosions, we find it irresponsible to be transporting crude oil by any means through California cities. Many residential neighborhoods, schools and places of business are located within the

potential blast zone from rail incidents within Pomona. We view this as a direct threat to our public health, safety and welfare.

Our board strongly urges the Planning Commission to deny approval of the proposed Phillips 66 Rail Spur extension Project for all of the reasons stated above. No amount of mitigation measures will make this project acceptable to us or the many other concerned citizens across the state of California. We join communities such as Berkeley, Richmond, Moorpark, San Jose, Simi Valley and your own residents of San Luis Obispo County in objecting to these activities which directly threaten our community.

Thank you for your consideration,



Kyle D. Brown, Ph.D., ASLA
Clean & Green Pomona

cc:

Norma Torres, U.S. House of Representatives, CA – 35th District

Freddie Rodriguez, Assembly Member, District 52

Connie M. Leyva, Senator, District 20

Elliott Rothman, Mayor, City of Pomona

John Nolte, Council Member, City of Pomona

Adriana Robledo, Council Member, City of Pomona

Cristina Carrizosa, Council Member, City of Pomona

Paula Lantz, Council Member, City of Pomona

Ginna E. Escobar, Council Member, City of Pomona

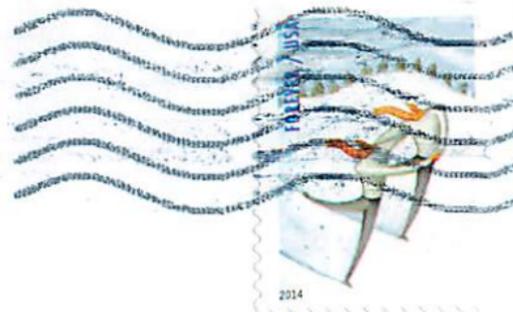
Debra Martin, Council Member, City of Pomona



Kyle E. Brown
Mary Brown
565 E. Jefferson Ave.
Pomona, CA 91767

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