

From: Charles Varni <charles@varni.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 7:19 AM
Subject: Fwd: [CA Oil Trains Network] Breaking: Surface Transportation Board Denies Valero Oil Train Appeal; City of Benicia Votes to Kill Project 5-0

GREAT NEWS THIS MORNING--MORE DETAILS FORTHCOMING

[Statement: Surface Transportation Board Denies Valero Oil Train Appeal; City of Benicia Votes to Kill Project](#)

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September 20, 2016

[Benicia, CA]: Today, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, in a stinging rebuke, denied Valero's (NYSE: VLO) request for a ruling that the Benicia Planning Commission's denial of the company's permit for an oil train facility was preempted by federal law. This decision came hours before the Benicia City Council voted to kill the project in a unanimous 5 to 0 vote.

Public interest groups issued the following statements:

“This is a victory for the right of communities to say no to refineries’ dangerous oil train projects. The federal government has said once and for all that there is nothing in federal law that prevents cities from denying these oil companies’ dangerous rail projects. The oil industry keeps telling communities they have no right to say no to oil trains, but this ruling once and for all refutes this. By denying Valero’s oil train project, the Benicia City Council has demonstrated its commitment to protect public health, safety and our climate in Benicia and beyond. More than anything, this victory belongs to the people of Benicia, who courageously led this multi-year effort to stop Valero’s dangerous project. We call on decision makers in San Luis Obispo, CA, Skagit County WA and other municipalities to recognize that this federal ruling gives them the right to say "NO" to oil companies pushing oil train facilities.”

-Ethan Buckner, Stand.earth Campaigner

“We Benicians are elated that the federal government has our back. The Planning Commission’s denial of Valero’s dangerous crude by rail project was a completely legitimate exercise of land use authority. Valero’s 11th-hour stalling tactic did not work. We’re also incredibly pleased that the Benicia City Council has finally decided to end this four-year nightmare. Benicians and their families can now rest comfortably knowing we will not become the next Lac-Mégantic, Québec, or Mosier, Oregon.”

-Andrés Soto, Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community & Communities for a Better Environment

“The people of Benicia can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that bomb trains from this project

won't be coming through their neighborhoods. City leaders made the right call today denying this dangerous and ill-conceived crude-by-rail project, which would have been disastrous for the environment, the residents of Benicia, and the thousands of people around the country who live near the rail lines that would have carried these bomb trains.”

-Jackie Prange, Staff Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

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Stand.earth leads the fight to protect people, our environment, and the climate from extreme oil pipelines and oil trains. Their [online “blast-zone” map](#) allows users to put in any address and see if their home, workplace or loved ones are in the oil train blast-zone.

Communities for a Better Environment works to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments. www.cbecal.org

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 2 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Chicago; Bozeman, Montana; and Beijing. Visit us at www.nrdc.org and follow us on Twitter @NRDC.

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