

Dear Friend, Colleague or Neighbor:

This letter is to strongly encourage you to send an email to the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department and Board of Supervisors (see contact info below) to protest the Phillips 66 Oil Rail Terminal on the Nipomo Mesa and plan to transport two-mile long oil on trains that run through San Luis Obispo County and entire state.

The following are 11 Class I impacts to our county that this project would generate. Class 1 impacts are those that cannot be made to disappear. They are "significant and unavoidable." Just a single Class I is a reason to deny the project and this project generates 11! I have combined them below.

Impact on air and water quality

1. Activities at the refinery and on the mainline would generate criteria pollutant emissions, exceeding thresholds of the SLO County air pollution control district. This includes particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead.
2. Activities at the refinery and on the mainline would generate toxic emissions exceeding thresholds.
3. Activities would generate greenhouse gas emissions exceeding thresholds.
4. Ruptures from mainline rail cars could substantially degrade surface and groundwater quality.

Impact on emergency response

5. Oil spill impacts to fire protection and emergency response services along the mainline would be significant and unavoidable. Emergency response is underfunded, undertrained, underequipped, unprepared, and preempted.

Impact on agriculture, wildlife and wetlands

6. The mainline passes through prime farm lands. In the event of an oil spill or fire, there could be a complete loss of agricultural resources.
7. A derailment or oil spill by the tracks would impact 200 sensitive animal species. The impacts to channels and wetlands would be substantial.

Impact to people

8. An oil spill could result in the destruction of schools, businesses, and homes along the mainline, not to mention the significant devaluing of property.
9. A train derailment would increase the risk to the public significantly at the Union Pacific right-of-way.
10. Noise pollution as a result of hundreds of two-mile trains through residential neighborhoods each year.
11. The project places the SLO County's agricultural businesses, tourism, and business development at severe risk.

There have already been dozens of accidents of oil trains where they have been permitted – and this number is accelerating. Accidents are inevitable, whether they be due to track conditions, mechanical failure, crashes of one train into another, or human error. They have resulted in fires on rivers, loss of life, and loss of property. We do not want this to happen in our lovely county. Please check out the Mesa Refinery Watch Group website for lots more factual information: www.mesarefinerywatch.com.

This project is not about jobs or energy independence, it is about Phillips 66 increasing their profits. The CEO has stated that this project is "optionable," meaning not necessary. Phillips is minimizing the enormous scope of what they intend to bring to SLO County. Sending thousands of extremely heavy crude oil trains down the Cuesta grade is inviting a monumental disaster.

Please write a brief email – even if it's one sentence stating your protest – or use some of these facts and how the terminal and transport of two-mile long trains will impact you, your family, and your community. Emails may be sent to SLO County Planning Department Planning Manager, Ryan Hostetter at rhostetter@co.slo.ca.us and the County Board of Supervisors at boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us by February 25 to ensure they go on public record. There will also be a public hearing on February 25 at the County Board of Supervisors if you want to attend.

Thank you so very much,
Sally Rogow