

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

February 2, 2016

San Luis Obispo Planning Commission
Via Email

Re: Phillips 66 Rail Project

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am writing in support of the proposed rail project on behalf of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business of Santa Barbara County (COLAB). COLAB is an organization that was formed 25 years ago and whose 1,000 members include members from organized labor, and from every facet of agriculture and businesses from throughout the region.

This project is important to both the state and regional economy as it pertains to the ability of the oil industry to have a processing facility here on the Central Coast. These plants must be allowed to exist where the oil is produced lest we inadvertently magnify the environmental consequences of having to move our locally produced oil to faraway places. How environmentally conscious would that be?

The plant has a long and distinguished record of safe operations and compliance with environmental regulations. The project application should be deemed complete and consistent with the historical use and zoning designation of the property.

We wish to remind the Planning Commission that this project has drummed up significant opposition, not because of the actual project being proposed on this oil legacy site, but because of a generalized campaign against fossil fuels. This despite the fact that California consumes more gasoline than any other country in the world except the United States! This demand must be satisfied and the best way to do it is to allow companies in established locations with phenomenal safety records to keep doing what they are doing!

The members of the Commission need to understand that the no project alternative is simply an invitation to have these trains go elsewhere in the State or to invite more tankers to arrive from Saudi Arabia after cruising the California coastline. This is the absolute truth because there is no scenario which indicates that California drivers are going to abate their need for 14 billions of gasoline per year in order to drive 330 billion miles a year. California is car centric because the people want it that way!

We urge support for the project and thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Andy Caldwell
Executive Director