CITY of CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA

January 26, 2016

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
c/o James A. Bergmann, Director of Planning and Building
976 Los Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Request that the San Luis Obispo County deny the proposed Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

As Mayor of the City of Carpinteria, I write to you on behalf of the Carpinteria City Council to request that the Planning Commission deny the proposed Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project due to the 11 Significant and Unavoidable (Class I) environmental impacts in seven issue areas, identified in the project Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). In particular, we object to the project due to the increased risk of a crude oil train derailment in our community.

Carpinteria is located on the coast in southeast Santa Barbara County and is bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad mainline studied in the EIR and subject to project impacts. Thousands of Carpinterians live, work and go to school adjacent to this rail line. An oil train derailment in Carpinteria poses a significant risk of loss of life in our community.

Carpinteria is home to a variety of coastal resources that are of regional and statewide significance include an estuary, near shore ocean reefs, a harbor seal haulout/sanctuary, popular tourist destinations such as the Carpinteria downtown shopping district and the Carpinteria State Beach campground. All of these important resources are located adjacent to the UPRR railroad tracks and, in the event of an oil train derailment in Carpinteria, would put these resources at a significant risk of being damaged or destroyed.

As you know, the federal government preempts local government agencies such as the San Luis Obispo County from regulating railroad operations. Yet, the regulation of rail transportation, as promulgated and carried out by the rail industry and federal and state regulatory agencies has proven to be inadequate to effectively address the risks represented by oil-by-rail transportation. Nationwide, the lack of effective federal or state regulation and the inability to establish local regulations has resulted in a dangerous void in oversight with, as we have seen over and over again, disastrous results. This inadequate system of regulatory oversight should not be relied upon as the basis for a local development permit.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Commission deny the proposed Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery project.

Sincerely,

Gregg A. Carty

Gregg A. Carty
Mayor

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2016

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

c: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

5775 CARPINTERIA AVENUE • CARPINTERIA, CA 93013-2603 (805) 684-5405 • FAX (805) 684-5304
www.carpinteria.ca.us