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January 27, 2016

San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project, Santa Maria Refinery

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the Phillips 66 rail receiving terminal, Santa Maria Refinery, for the purpose of unloading imported crude oil via rail. These shipments are proposed to use Union Pacific rail lines for the transport of 80-unit cars of crude oil, 250 days of the year. These rail lines travel through our community of Berkeley, and are adjacent and close to residences, businesses, manufacturing plants, childcare facilities, stores, and restaurants.

Metro Lighting has been in business in West Berkeley for 22 years, very near the rail lines. The prospect of these hazardous materials traveling through our community, near my business, is very worrisome and places the West Berkeley community at risk.

I am also the chair of a non-profit business association of locally owned home improvement merchants, all located in West Berkeley, and I write to you in that capacity as well. Our members are already impacted when there are accidents on the rail lines through West Berkeley. The magnitude of risk of transporting crude oil along this corridor poses much greater risks with potentially devastating consequences.

As you know, the record of rail accidents involving shipment of hazardous crude is quite alarming. Mainline rail accidents, spills, fires, and explosions were found to have significant and unavoidable impacts. Added to that, is the disruption to our east/west roads and the particulate matter from diesel and off-gassing from the crude products, impacting the air quality and health of our community.

Metro Lighting respectfully but vehemently requests that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission deny the project based on the scientific findings in the Final Environmental Impact Report: <http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/Proposal.html?select=5611;> especially the considerable accident record of transport by rail of these materials, some of it catastrophic.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Grown
Owner, Metro Lighting