



Fw: Stop the Oil Trains
Debbie Arnold to: Ryan Hostetter
Sent by: **Jennifer Caffee**

11/20/2015 01:12 PM

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----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 11/20/2015 01:11 PM -----

From: Tom Cyr <tacyr1242@me.com>
To: Lynn Compton <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 11/20/2015 12:50 PM
Subject: Stop the Oil Trains

Dear Supervisor Compton —

I am writing to you and the Board of Supervisors ... again, to express my opposition to the Phillips 66 Refinery rail-spur expansion on the Nipomo Mesa; here are my concerns and/or reasons:

1. **Too many risks:** There is plenty of evidence that the shipping of crude oil via the railroads comes with many risks and hazards including derailment, oil spills and accidents that lead to powerful explosions which, in turn, create a 1 mile wide blast zone along the railroad corridor that implicate people's lives.
2. **No positive benefits:** There is no evidence that I've found that having crude oil shipped to the Nipomo Mesa is of any significant long term benefit to San Luis Obispo County and its residents, e.g., no tax benefits nor lower gas prices. The only benefits seem to be relieving the fear of the current employees working at the refinery and increasing the profits of the Phillips 66 corporation. The people living in The Trilogy community that I've talked with see no benefits coming, only detriments and are very angry and nervous about the prospects for their future.
3. **Diminished quality of life:** Environmentally, the air quality on the mesa has already been shown to be below acceptable standards and adding five additional 80 car long trains per week to be unloaded and processed will only increase the already poor air quality diminishing the quality of life for the residents living on or near the mesa.
4. **Incompatibility with basic nature and character:** The basic nature and character of SLO County is quiet rural living with agriculture and tourism being the major economic industries. Most of the folks with whom I've

spoken do not want this county to be turned into a frenetic and polluted industrial oil zone, nor do I.

5. **Insufficient emergency service capabilities and preparation:** The County of San Luis Obispo does not have sufficiently prepared emergency services or response procedures to deal with potential oil train accidents. Nor are the rail and the oil companies sufficiently prepared to deal with potential accidents that could compromise the health, safety and welfare of local residents.
6. **Air, light and noise pollution:** The retrofitted Phillips 66 refinery with 30-foot tall light towers that are to surround the rail yard would operate 24 hours per day 7 days a week producing much diesel exhaust, and light and noise pollution to the surrounding residential neighborhoods.
7. **Threat to schools along the rail path:** There are so many schools (including Cal Poly) that are located within the 1.0 mile wide blast zone of the oil train rail line. This puts our innocent young people at risk ...and for what?

For these reasons, it is important for you, Ms Compton, and the residents of the South SLO County to oppose/deny/reject the Phillips 66 permit request to add a new rail-spur at the Nipomo mesa refinery.

One other thing as a reminder and a promise: When you formally became a county supervisor, you solemnly swore (or affirmed) that you would “well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which [you] have entered” - a major duty, as I see it, being making ‘good’ decisions - frequently a difficult task requiring great consideration and patience. Further, you made a public promise “... to not forget that [you] work for [your constituents] and not the other way around (Santa Maria Times -01/04/14).” That is a great promise! In turn, I promise to be a helpful constituent with the decision-making process; that can start right now with your decision to oppose or sanction the permit for the Phillips 66 refinery rail-spur expansion. In my view, you should oppose the expansion and deny the permit for the reasons stated above.

Respectfully submitted,



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