GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

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June 24, 2015

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PLANNING & BUILDING

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: Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project

Dear Director and Commissioners:

As Superintendent of the Goleta Union School District (GUSD), I write to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees to request that the Planning Commission deny the proposed Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project.

According to the most recent environmental impact report (EIR) for the project, the trains arriving at the refinery would be capped at five per week, or 250 per year. Each train would consist of three locomotives, two buffer cars, and 80 tank cars, and total oil capacity per train would be between 49,670 and 53,532 barrels.

Our school district has two elementary schools that would be directly affected by both the additional traffic and the potential for disaster. The Ellwood and El Camino Schools property lines border the Amtrak line and fall in the *0.5 Mile US DOT Evacuation Zone for Oil Train Derailments.* Not only does increased rail traffic represent a safety threat to these two schools, the additional noise generated and increased rail traffic will create more frequent disruption of instruction. Furthermore, children attend classes at seven other school sites owned by GUSD that fall within the *1.0 Mile US DOT Potential Impact Zone in Case of Oil Train Fire*, which expands the potential impact of a rail accident to include potential effects at nine local school sites.

The transport of large quantities of volatile crude oil on a mile-long train through our city is simply too risky and unnecessary. Allowing this increased oil transport threatens the safety of students and families in the Goleta Union School District; guarantees disruption to learning at two schools; and has the potential to negatively affect the local physical environment. When we consider the potential for a large-scale disaster with a project such as this, we conclude an urgent imperative to respectfully request the Commission deny the proposed Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project.

Sincerely,

William Banning, Superintendent
Goleta Union School District

401 North Fairview Avenue • Goleta, CA 93117 • (805) 681-1200

GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Attn: James A. Bergmann, Director of Planning and Building