HAYWARD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION • CTA/NEA

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Mr. Ken Topping, Chair
County of San Luis Obispo
Planning Commission
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
April 23, 2015

APR 27 2015

RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion

Dear Chairperson Topping and Members of the Planning Commission:

The Hayward Education Association (HEA), representing nearly 1200 educators in Hayward Unified School District, wishes to convey to you our concern regarding the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. We are especially concerned with the increase in oil train traffic that will be generated by this project through many densely populated areas, including Hayward, and the risk that the transit of crude oil poses to our students, HUSD staff and community members along the rail route.

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report ("RDEIR") is accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the Bay Area and beyond, and not to move large quantities of hazardous material. In addition, Hayward Education Association members and other employees of HUSD would be called upon to act as emergency workers in the event of an accident, and no non-medical staff is capable of dealing with or providing safety to our students in this type of emergency situation.

The current plan for the transport of crude oil puts many of our students at risk since the trains will go through densely populated areas that are filled with schools serving our community. Although the RDEIR did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project which include oil transport from Canada to the San Luis Obispo County facility, the diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would create toxic pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds, and will increase the risk of cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease among the entire population, especially in the very young.

The schools along the routes and within one mile of the train tracks contain thousands of workers and students who will be at greater risk for asthma and other environmentally caused diseases.

As a result, our union, Hayward Education Association, voted unanimously to oppose the constructions of the facility expansion and of the transport of crude oil through East Bay communities. We hereby and respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission vote to deny the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion.

Sincerely,

K. Mercedes Faraj

K. Mercedes Faraj, President

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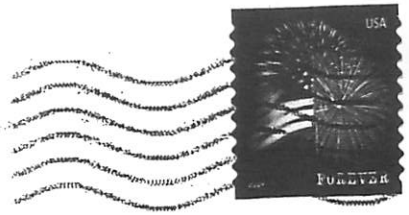

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