CITY OF BERKELEY
Rent Stabilization Board

JAN 12 2015

January 9, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
Department of Planning & Building
Attn: Ramona Hedges
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: **Opposition to the Proposed Santa Maria Crude-By-Rail Project in San Luis Obispo**

Dear Commission Members,

The Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board opposes the proposed Santa Maria crude-by-rail project being considered by the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission and San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors.

Our Board is charged with the purpose to maintain affordable housing and preserve community diversity in Berkeley. We firmly believe that the proposed project threatens our precious rent controlled housing stock. We know that the proposed Phillips 66 crude-by-rail project will transport multiple trains per week filled with explosive oil through Berkeley. If this project is approved, many residents and businesses in Berkeley will be constantly threatened with a potential explosion if derailment or accident occurs within a one-mile radius of our City.

As you know, if the crude-by-rail project is approved, these dangerous "bomb trains" will roll through many California communities each day, including northern and western shorelines of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This project will put many communities at risk of accidents and spills, threatening our air, water, health and Berkeley's Rent Controlled housing stock. A derailment in Berkeley will cause severe damage to the San Francisco Bay, West Berkeley manufacturing zone, and West Berkeley residents, schools, healthcare agencies and businesses.

We respectfully urge you to oppose this project.

Sincerely,

Jesse Townley

Jesse Townley, Chair
Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board

2125 Milvia Street, Berkeley, California 94704
TEL: (510) 981-7368 (981-RENT) • TDD: (510) 981-6903 • FAX: (510) 981-4940
E-MAIL: rent@cityofberkeley.info • INTERNET: www.cityofberkeley.info/rent