



The voice of our community

**2015 Officers:**

Cindy Feinberg  
President  
Cliff Ghersen  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Aaron Budgor  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Trish Davis  
Secretary  
Tom Schleck  
Treasurer

**Directors:**

Frank Abatemarco  
Monica Babich  
Brenda Blalock  
Dr. Aaron Budgor  
Trish Davis  
Peter Dealy  
Dan Eidelson  
Cindy Feinberg  
Cliff Ghersen  
Kathi King  
Robert Kupiec  
Barbara Mathews  
Charlene Nagel  
Michele Saltoun  
Tom Schleck  
Jean von Wittenburg  
P. Gerhardt Zacher

**Honorary Directors:**

Ralph Baxter  
Sally Kinsell  
Robert V. Meghreblian  
Diane Pannkuk  
Richard Thielscher  
Joan Wells

**Executive Director:**

Victoria Greene

**Office Coordinator:**

Susan Robles

**Office:**

1469 E. Valley Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

P.O. Box 5278  
Santa Barbara, CA 93150  
Tel: (805) 969-2026  
Fax (805) 969-4043

info@montecitoassociation.org  
www.montecitoassociation.org

October 15, 2015

Honorable Planning Commissioners  
San Luis Obispo County  
c/o James A. Bergman, Director of Planning and Building  
976 Los Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Request that the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission  
Deny the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

The Montecito Association requests that the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors deny the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Project based on the significant risk of hazard posed by the transport of crude oil by rail. The Montecito Association is a nonprofit community association dedicated to protecting and preserving the semi-rural residential character of Montecito, an unincorporated community located east of the City of Santa Barbara. We provide these comments on behalf of the residents of Montecito, many of whom reside along the rail corridor.

Trains travelling from Colton to the Santa Maria Refinery would pass through Montecito. The rail corridor in Montecito parallels U.S. Highway 101 and passes through our most populous neighborhoods, resort properties, public beaches and the sewage treatment plant. There are also a number of at grade pedestrian and vehicle crossings. As noted in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR), rail transport of crude would present an unmitigated significant risk of hazard. A spill or explosion in Montecito would not only harm area residents but could have significant effects on critical highway infrastructure and the environment. We believe that these risks outweigh any benefits associated with importing crude oil by rail to the Central Coast.

Thank you for considering the effects of this project on affected communities. Please deny the project.

Sincerely,

Cindy Feinberg, President

