

January 24, 2016

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: Phillips 66 Proposed Rail Spur Project

Dear Honorable Chair and Commissioners:

It seems meaningless to comment on the inadequacy of this FEIR since most of the proposed mitigation will likely be preempted by the Federal government. If the inadequacies would be corrected and the Federal government would not preempt the mitigation, this Project would still have too many Class I Impacts to be approved.

There are a number of areas that have possible Class I Impacts but they are dismissed without adequate justification. Many Class II and Class III Impacts could become Class I Impacts if the Federal government preempts mitigations.

A number of impacts have been manipulated to make them appear less significant. One example is the spreading of grading and soil transport over 5 months instead of 4 months to reduce emissions below the quarterly threshold of significance for ROG+NO<sub>x</sub>. Also under Recreation, there is the claim that an oil spill might limit access to recreation areas for cleanup but only temporarily. The document fails to consider that it could be closed permanently due to the extent of damage and therefore would become a Class I Impact.

The applicant is not proposing to use tank cars that meet the new, much safer DOT-117R standard. There is no guarantee that they will use any specific tank cars standards because of possible Federal preemption. This would severely increase the safety risk.

None of the mitigations count to lessen the impacts unless they are implemented and unfortunately the Federal government can preempt most of the mitigations.

Even without the Federal preemptions, this Project has 11 Class I Impacts. This is far too many and too serious to permit approval of the Project. There is also no way to protect the public from Federal preemption.

I want to add my opposition to the Phillips 66 Proposed Rail Spur Project to that of many hundreds of private citizens. Countless cities and counties are also opposed the Project and rightfully so.

The Phillips Proposed Rail Spur Project is an extremely dangerous project for everyone and everything along the railroad tracks that transport this highly volatile crude oil including the cities and their citizens. The type of crude oil and the large quantity of this crude oil makes the potential for accidents significant. Many living in Goleta and other cities along the railroad tracks will be within the blast zone from an explosion and fire. Anyone who has seen the tanker car explosions and fires on TV, from much shorter length train accidents, should be extremely concerned that the citizens of coastal California will be subjected to such a potential disaster. There is the possibility for a spill or explosion should there be an earthquake. There is also the potential for significant damage to the ocean, creeks, estuaries, endangered and special status plants, fish, birds, and other wildlife.

The lives of the citizens of coastal California, their quality of life, and the health of the environment are far more valuable than any profits for the County and the oil companies. Please deny this project.

Sincerely

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