

# URBANORE®

TO END THE AGE OF WASTE

January 31, 2016

San Luis Obispo Planning Commission  
San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Proposal

Dear Commisioners:

Please deny the proposal by Phillips Petroleum to build a rail spur.

Our business occupies three acres in West Berkeley. We salvage discarded goods from the Berkeley solid waste transfer station, we receive up to 100 vehicles a day driven by people dropping off or selling their unwanted possessions, and we pick things up from people who call us. We sell the reusable merchandise in retail sales. We are open 10 hours a day, 360 days a year. We might have up to 100 people on the premises at any given time.

My company, its employees, and our retail customers would be well within the hazard zones for both the blast and thermal radiation. A major gas transmission line runs under the street outside our business, intensifying our danger from potential secondary explosions and fires.

The history of the kinds of oil trains that would pass through shows high rates of explosions and fires. In Berkeley the tracks run along the shoreline within the potential liquefaction zone in case of a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault, the most heavily populated major fault in the world. Such an earthquake is expected within the next 30 years or so. If this rail spur were built, it would subject an already endangered population to a risk of explosion and fire whose add-on consequences would be horrific.

Please notice the maps on the enclosed flyer. Our business is shown as a green rectangle at the south of town. You can see why we're concerned. Thousands of other people in Berkeley would also be endangered.

You can prevent the worst of the disaster. Please vote to deny this permit application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Daniel Knapp, Ph.D.  
President

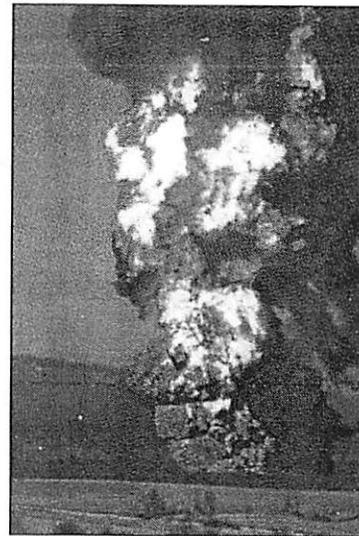
THIS PAID ADVERTISEMENT RAN IN BAY NATURE MAGAZINE IN APRIL 2015. THE TRAIN INFORMATION AND "WHAT YOU CAN DO" SECTION WERE UPDATED JANUARY 28, 2016.

# Components of the Worst-Case Scenario

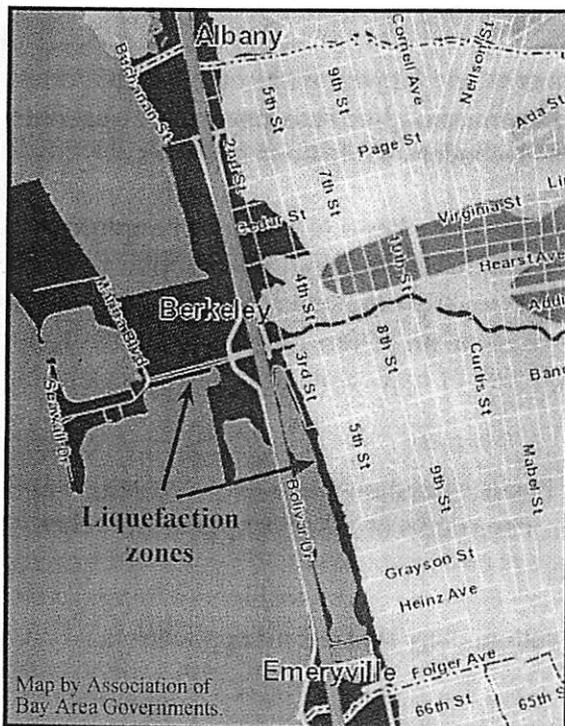
**Scenario: an earthquake triggers liquefaction, followed by derailed oil tankers, breached gas transmission lines, and broken water mains.**

Shale oil from the Bakken formation in North Dakota, Montana, and Canada contains high levels of propane and ethanol. Phillips wants to railhaul it in 80-car trains 6,000 feet long through the Bay Area to a proposed facility in San Luis Obispo. It would be exported. The Sierra Club thinks a train's blast zone would be a half-mile wide.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Tell San Luis Obispo County to stop this project! The Planning Commission's hearing is on February 4 at 9:00AM. Send written comments to the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department, 976 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408. Email: [slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm](mailto:slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm).



On March 5, 2015, this oil train with "safer" cars derailed in rural Illinois. Photo from KCRG-TV website, credited to @scandbq.



Map by Association of Bay Area Governments.



Gas transmission pipeline map by Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Urban Ore salvages for reuse at Berkeley's transfer station. People also bring us things and call for pickups. We conserve about 7,000 tons a year and sell the reusable goods in retail sales. We're open until 7:00PM (receiving closes 5:00) 360 days/year, 900 Murray St., Berkeley.

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[HTTP://URBANORE.COM](http://urbanore.com)