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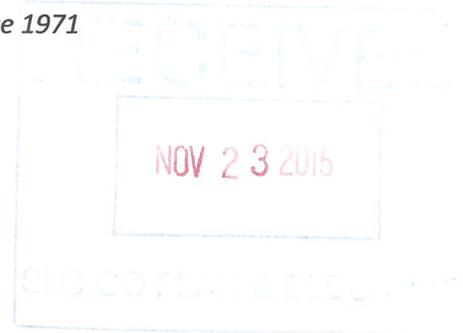


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*Protecting and enhancing the Central Coast since 1971*

November 17th, 2015

San Luis County Planning Commission  
c/o Ryan Hostetter, Project Lead  
976 Los Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408



Dear Chair and Commissioners,

The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County (ECOSLO) has comments regarding the Phillips 66 proposal to build a rail terminal at the Santa Maria Refinery that would bring oil trains to this area. ECOSLO is an environmental nonprofit with over 2,100 supporters. Our focus since we were founded in 1971 is on enhancing and protecting our beautiful, natural environment. ECOSLO is well known for advocating important issues, supporting trail work days, leading docent-led hikes, organizing beach clean-ups and for being a center for environmental issues and causes.

We are concerned about the eleven (11) significant and unavoidable (Class 1) environmental impacts identified in the revised draft environmental impact report. In particular, we object to the project due to:

- The increased risk of an oil tanker carrying highly volatile and flammable tar sands oil derailed in our County. History has shown that oil train accidents have risen and the severity of these accidents has also increased.
- The railroad was not built to transport crude oil. Rail and wheel defects or even simple debris on a track could lead to catastrophic implications to humans and nature alike.
- With the proposed potential of 80 train cars and over 2 million gallons of oil transported up to five times per week, the air quality risks alone are detrimental. The county faces significant air pollution risks that cannot be reduced.

ECOSLO has recently set up docent-led hikes on Stenner Creek and Bishop Peak open space trails, and many other locations, which are within the evacuation zone of the railway. Likewise, ECOSLO is very involved in collecting material from the 2011 Tsunami and other waste along the coastal beaches. Many of these are near the railway. The potential devastation of an oil spill or explosion near the nature that we work to keep as pristine as possible is unimaginable.

For these reasons, myself and the ECOSLO Board of Directors, on behalf of our members and supporters, respectfully request the Commission deny the proposed Phillips 66 project.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Ciesinski  
ECOSLO Executive Director

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