

Mrs Ryan Hostetter
San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

October 23, 2015

Dear Ms. Hostetter:

As a business owner in Oceano and as a resident of the Mesa. I want to express my strong opposition to the rail spur expansion project proposed at the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery.

Since 1975, my husband and I have entertained many thousands of people from all over the world at The Great American Melodrama. We have worked very hard over the past 40 years to make our business a wonderful place for families to enjoy and, we believe this business has been a major attraction and anchor in the town of Oceano and the entire Central Coast.

In 2013, the Oceano Revitalization Plan asked business owners, "What large scale projects would attract people in Oceano and have the biggest impact on your business?" I assure you that this project, which has the potential to pollute vast amounts of our area, and should a "major event" occur, would put 88% of our town in the evacuation zone. **THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT SOMETHING THAT WOULD ATTRACT PEOPLE TO OCEANO!** As a business owner, I am well aware that we want economic growth and good jobs in all of our communities. However, allowing the interest of a single mega corporation to put every other resident, visitor and business owner at risk is wrong and irresponsible.

Additionally, I am concerned about the impact of this project on property values, not only for myself, but for the community at large. A toxic and volatile rolling hazard passing through town five times a week will depress property values and consequently, property tax revenues for all homes and businesses in the blast zone. This is less than a desirable environment to attract a home buyer or a business patron!

Many people insist that oil by rail is safe and any concern is unwarranted. But, according to the American Association of Railroads, there have been 11 oil train derailments from 2014 to date. The safety measures being discussed; stronger rail cars, better braking systems, track and bridge improvements, are a long way from being implemented and, in fact, are the subject of delays and even lawsuits by the rail companies.

After our tireless efforts over the past 40 years of building an entertainment business that has become a landmark in this community, I am deeply concerned that this project could potentially have a disastrous effect on us and could shut down our business

should an "INCIDENT" occur. More importantly, the potential health hazards that could effect many thousands of people would be substantial!

I strongly urge you to take a "NO" stand on this proposal. The SMR has been operating safely for 60 years using pipelines. Local oil production is an an all-time high, and since the Refugio spill, the oil companies are doubling down on making sure the pipelines are safe and up to date. The pipelines are less polluting and much lower risk making them the responsible choice for our community.

Sincerely,

Lynne Schlenker

cc: Frank Mecham - fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Bruce Gibson - bgibson@co.slo.ca.us
ahill@co.slo.ca.us
compton@co.slo.ca.us