OXNARD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION #15-18
Regarding Santa Maria Phillips 66 Rail Refinery Project

WHEREAS, school district governing boards have the obligation to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and to urge the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to reject the Santa Maria Phillips 66 Rail Refinery Project. As representatives of schools located along the proposed rail route, we would be directly impacted by these oil trains, and do not support the project for reasons outlined below.

WHEREAS, The Phillips 66 oil train project would bring mile-long oil trains right through many California communities and next to dozens of schools. School employees are state-mandated disaster workers while on the job, and we are not at all equipped to deal with the dangers posed by this project or to adequately protect the lives and the wellbeing of our students. This project creates unacceptable risks for our students, teachers, and staff.

WHEREAS, The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) does not adequately assess the risks of an oil train disaster; the draft only evaluates rail-accident rates from 2003 to 2012 and spill rates between 2005 and 2009, omitting crucial data about accident frequency and magnitude in 2013 and 2014. This is troubling because we know that more crude spilled from trains in 2013 than during the past four decades combined. The EIR must look at recent data, which reflects the increased quantities of crude being transported in old and unsafe tank cars. The draft EIR uses outdated data that drastically underestimates the danger of a derailment or spill, which could put our school communities and children at severe risk. While school employees are state-mandated disaster workers while on the job, we are not at all prepared for the accidents that could happen from these heavy, dangerous trains containing hazardous oil.

WHEREAS, The EIR's worst-case scenario estimates a spill of 180,000 gallons, or roughly six tank cars of crude. This is most definitely a miscalculation because crude trains have 100 or more tank cars, carrying millions of gallons. Such a spill would certainly be more than 180,000 gallons. In fact, the oil trains in this project would be carrying almost 3 million gallons each. A spill would devastate our schools, scarce water resources, sensitive ecosystems, homes and local economies.

WHEREAS, The toxic air emissions that will accompany this project pose an unacceptable risk to public health. In its latest environmental review Phillips 66 admits that its proposed oil train facility will create "significant and unavoidable" levels of air pollution along the rail route, with sulfur dioxide and other toxic chemicals leaked that increase risk of cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease and premature death. This is unacceptable risk to the health of school children and educators close to the tracks.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oxnard Union High School District strongly opposes this project for all the above stated reasons. We urge the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to soundly reject the Phillips 66 proposed oil train project. We strongly encourage you to act and advocate for the people expressing grave concerns about the impacts this project would have on our communities.

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Oxnard Union High School District of Oxnard, California this 22nd day of April, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:	5	ABSENT:	0
NOES:	0	ABSTAIN:	0

President, Board of Education

Vice President, Board of Education

Wayne Edmonds
Member, Board of Education

Member, Board of Education

Member, Board of Education

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Governing Board,
OUHSD Superintendent