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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project
San Luis Obispo Planning Commission Hearing
February 25, 2016

Remarks submitted on behalf of First District County Supervisor Salud Carbajal:

Chair Campbell and Members of the Planning Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in regards to the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project. I have provided previously submitted copies of my letter and that of the County of Santa Barbara stating concerns and opposition to this project.

On September 1, 2015 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to oppose the Phillips 66 application for a Rail Spur Extension due to the potential health and safety risks to the residents and environment of Santa Barbara County. Transportation of crude oil through Santa Barbara County via rail presents health and safety risks to local residents, our environment and local economy. The proposed project is of great concern, due in part to the dangerous nature of crude oil and the proximity of the proposed route to highly populated urban areas. The potential blast zone is a 2 mile wide evacuation area along the train route which includes the communities of Carpinteria, Summerland, Montecito, and Santa Barbara which are within the District I represent, as well as Goleta, Casmalia, Vandenberg Air Force Base and Guadalupe.

According to calculations using a U.S. Department of Transportation tool for emergency response, it is estimated that approximately 25 million Americans reside in a potential oil train blast zone, including 125,000 Santa Barbara County residents. However, this number is conservative in that this estimate of Santa Barbara County residents residing within the blast zone does not include temporary residents such as tourists or U.C. Santa Barbara students who are not included in the census count.

Furthermore, not only does the planned route go directly through the heart of local Santa Barbara communities, it also includes some of the most sensitive ecological areas and public parks along our coast, including Jalama, Gaviota, Refugio and El Capitan Beach Parks, Naples, the Guadalupe Dunes and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. An oil train accident or derailment has the potential to contaminate our oceans, water supply and directly impact

diverse local species and habitats. Additionally, a fire or blast could impact many local schools, Santa Barbara City College and Cottage Hospital. Carpinteria City Hall, Santa Barbara City Hall and the County Administration Building are also within the potential blast zone. Remember, accidents do happen, as evidenced by the recent Plains Refugio Oil Spill which would pale in comparison to a derailed oil train.

One of the primary responsibilities of government decisions makers, yourselves included, is to adequately plan and take the necessary steps to protect public health and safety by implementing policies to prevent potential worst case scenarios. An oil train derailment along the urbanized coastline is a worst case scenario. It would cause irreparable harm including loss of life, property, public infrastructure and damage to our most cherished public asset, the coastline itself.

I urge you to support the staff recommendation and deny this project.

Thank you for your consideration.



Salud Carbajal
First District Supervisor
County of Santa Barbara