

135. The Noise & Congestion From Oil Trains Will Affect Us All (1:15)

Speaker: Tom Nefcy

Hello, I'm Tom Nefcy and I live in Nipomo, on the Mesa, ~ 1000 yards from the proposed Rail yard site.

When each of Phillips' hundreds of crude oil trains move in and out of SLO County each year, we're going to know about every single of them. Why? Well, just listen to the experience of people in Savannah, Georgia. Their experience is so bad, that it became a story in the Wall Street Journal.

It reported that the trains "blow their horns at every single one of the rail crossings." A local lawyer stated that "he and other attorneys have to take train breaks during depositions. And he has to step into a closet for phone calls. 'Everybody hates it' he said."

The article pointed out why the trains blow their whistles so often - "Trains are federally mandated to honk at most street-level crossings for safety reasons."

In addition to the noise, the article discussed the impact on traffic. In one Indiana town, "trains block major intersections, sometimes up to five hours. And some communities complain that rail traffic is blocking thoroughfares, delaying commuters and holding up ambulances and fire engines."

The article quoted what one of the mayors said about the trains. She explained - "We have everything to lose and nothing to gain."

We can say the very same thing about Phillips' plan to haul hundreds of mile-long trains through SLO County -- we have everything to lose and nothing to gain.

Please, don't let us become another Savannah.

(Hand one copy of your statement to each commissioner + three copies to the clerk)