Lucia Mar Unified Teachers Association

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PLANNING & BUILDING

Mr. Murray Wilson
Department of Planning and Building
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The Lucia Mar Unified Teachers Association respectfully requests that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the approval of the proposed Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion on the Nipomo Mesa.

As educators and advocates for the students of south San Luis Obispo County, we are particularly concerned with the risks this project would pose to Lucia Mar schools and student populations along the rail line. Seven Lucia Mar schools—Lopez High School, Mesa and Judkins Middle Schools, and Fairgrove, Grover Beach Grover Heights and Oceano Elementary Schools—along with 22 other schools in San Luis Obispo County, are within a mile of the "blast zone" and could suffer catastrophic consequences in the event of a derailment. Teachers are state-mandated disaster workers while we are on the job, but no amount of training would equip us to deal with a potential disaster of this magnitude.

Of further concern are health risks stemming from the trains' diesel emissions along the route. These toxic pollutants contribute to risks of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, especially in the very young. These health risks were not evaluated by the RDEIR.

The facility expansion would not bring long-term benefits to our community, but will certainly result in long-term risk to our students and their communities. For this reason, the Lucia Mar Teachers Association Representative Council unanimously voted on May 27th to urge denial of this project.

Respectfully,

Donna Kandel
President, Lucia Mar Unified Teachers Association

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