



2 Northgate Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94708  
28 November 2014

San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning & Building  
976 Osos St., Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

To: Members of the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission

I am writing to you as a resident of Berkeley, California in Alameda County, to urge the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission to reject the expansion proposal to the Santa Maria refinery.

Trains transporting crude oil to the refinery would travel through dense residential neighborhoods in Berkeley and adjacent cities of the San Francisco East Bay area.

These trains pose a serious environmental hazard in terms of the potential for catastrophic spills, derailments and fires. This is particularly critical in view of the precarious state of the railway infrastructure. Additionally and equally disconcerting is the fact that Bay Area emergency response personnel are neither trained nor prepared for dealing with toxic chemical in highly urbanized areas such as Berkeley.

Last year in Canada, a runaway crude oil train crashed in a small town and exploded, killing 47 people, many as they slept. Several other crude oil trains have been involved in dramatic explosions around the country in the past year, prompting evacuations of residential areas. Moreover, the fact that private railroads conduct their own rail line and rail car safety inspections with very little federal oversight is a growing problem.

Additionally, Phillips 66 has admitted that it is common for toxic chemicals to leak from the tank cars creating dangerous air pollution. At the refinery more toxicity will be emitted into the air, threatening the residents of the San Luis Obispo area as well as those living near the Rodeo refinery here in Northern California.

Again, I urge the Commission apply the highest standards of environmental protection and study this issue more thoroughly and be certain that the potential rewards outweigh the enormous risks entailed.

Sincerely,

Marvin Snow