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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2015

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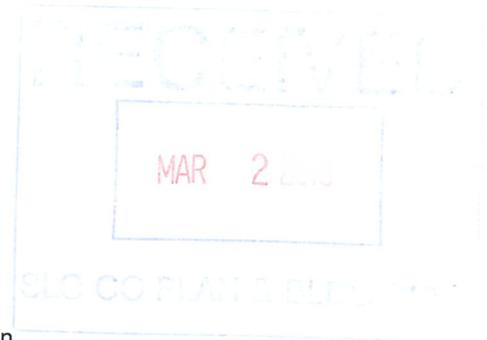
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February 25, 2015

Mr. Ken Topping, Chair
County of San Luis Obispo
Planning Commission
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, California 93408



RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion

Dear Chairperson Topping and Members of the Planning Commission:

The Oakland Unified School District Board of Education wishes to convey to you its concerns regarding the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. The Board is particularly concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic that will be generated by this project through many densely populated areas, including Oakland, and the risk it poses to the students and families in our schools along the rail route.

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report ("RDEIR") is accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the entire Bay Area and beyond, not to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. Additionally, at least a dozen schools in the City of Oakland, as well as the Oakland Unified School District Administration headquarters, are within the one-mile U.S. Department of Transportation Potential Impact Zone in the case of an oil train derailment or fire.

The RDEIR also did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area, which includes oil transport through San Leandro from Canada to the San Luis Obispo County facility. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease among the entire population, especially in the very young. Residents in these same neighborhoods have been documented by the Alameda County Department of Public Health to have lower life expectancies than residents in other parts of our city in part because of the environmental hazards of living near a train line. There are dozens of schools and 20,000 students within one mile of train tracks in our District. There is already a high incidence of childhood asthma in the neighborhoods of Oakland along the train route – asthma hospitalization in Alameda County has twice the state average and is the third highest in California. Therefore, this project would directly the health and safety of our school communities along the rail route in Oakland.

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On February 25, 2015, the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education voted to, and hereby does respectfully, request that the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission vote to deny the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion.

Sincerely,

James Harris
President

JH:JL:lf

cc: Members, Board of Education
Antwan Wilson, Superintendent/Secretary
Jacqueline Minor, General Counsel