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Liaison to EMS Section

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Gilroy FD

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South Santa Clara County Fire District / Morgan Hill Fire Department
Liaison to Cal Fire and State of California & Training Officers Section

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Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety
Liaison to Law Enforcement Chiefs

Roger Bloom
NASA-Ames Research Center
Liaison to Emergency Managers

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Ken Kehmna
Santa Clara County FD
Liaison to CICCS Program & Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Curtis Jacobson
San Jose FD
Liaison to Safety Committee

Juan Diaz
Mountain View FD
Liaison to Operations Section

Bill Kelly
Santa Clara FD
Liaison to *Santa Clara County Operational Area Council/Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)*

Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs' Association

A Chapter of California Fire Chief's Association

August 17, 2015

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Honorable Debbie Arnold, Chair
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center, Room D-430
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Mr. Ken Topping, Chair
San Luis Obispo County Planning Commissioners
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Mr. James Bergman, Director
San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building Department
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Re: Potential fire and life safety impacts to communities in Santa Clara County related to the proposed Phillips 66 Company Rail Spur Extension Project

Dear Chair Arnold, Chair Topping and Director Bergman,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the ten fire, rescue and emergency medical services chiefs that represent nearly 1.9 million community members in the cities and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. I would encourage the County of San Luis Obispo to consider the impacts along the rail corridors that lead into the proposed Phillips 66 Company Rail Spur Project.

The role of the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association is to support community risk reduction, fire, rescue and emergency medical service needs through the development of customer-focused and sustainable initiatives. We are extremely concerned with the potential presence of high hazard flammable trains moving through our communities.

Normally fire and emergency services would be able to assess hazards through right-to-know and other public documents; however, the rail industry has sought and gained exemptions to these sunshine laws. This exemption does not mean that Phillips and the rail industry are exempt from taking reasonable steps to ensure catastrophic incidents do not occur. Railroads have balked at requests by emergency responders that would make public such information as the schedule of oil trains passing through population centers.

Oil train safety has assumed a much higher profile after recent accidents in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, that killed 47 people and burned homes inside out as fire erupted out of water pipes, drains and sewers. What is Union Pacific and Phillips' calculated Worst Case Scenarios for a potential crude oil emergency in urban and

sensitive environmental locales? The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs have yet to receive any data from Phillips or Union Pacific that identify the potential impact of a crude oil disaster in Santa Clara County.

Given the potential for accidents, spills and fires along the right of way that would impact hundreds of thousands of our County's residents, visitors and workers, we strongly believe these corporations should provide our fire agencies, firefighters and hazardous materials specialists with robust training and equipment upgrades as part of a mitigation plan. The cost to provide personnel, training and equipment should not be borne by the taxpayers of Santa Clara County.

We are prepared to work with all public, private, federal, state and local agencies to prepare and mitigate these hazards. Until this happens to our expectation, the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association is adamantly opposed to Phillips' plan to transport these hazards through our communities.

This is not just Santa Clara County's issue, but an issue for all of the communities along the transportation corridor. We look forward to collaborating on safer alternative solutions.

Regards,

Eric Nickel
President, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association

cc. Supervisor Dave Cortese, District Three, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Cindy Chavez, District Two, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

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