CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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March 2, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
c/o James Bergman, Director of Planning and Building
976 Los Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Proposed Phillips 66 Company Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project

Dear Honorable Chair and Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Simi Valley, the City Council has reconsidered the proposed Phillips 66 Company Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project, and I would like to express our serious concern and bring to your attention our opposition to the Project.

According to the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR), there exist unmitigated significant hazards and hazardous materials impacts associated with the transport of crude oil by rail that would result in risk of derailment and spillage of crude oil, including impacts to fire protection and emergency response services along the mainline due to spill or derailment. Simi Valley has nine at grade rail crossings in our community. Adjacent to the railroad tracks are homes, parks, businesses, and an elementary school. A derailment, accident, explosion, oil spill, or fire could have disastrous life safety, health, environmental, and economic consequences for the residents and businesses in Simi Valley.

Even without the risk posed by the extreme proximity of rail lines to our residents and businesses, local emergency responders are not prepared for the scale or disaster represented by a major oil train derailment, and current oil-by-rail safety standards, like electronically controlled braking systems and phase out of older cars, have not kept pace with increased oil-train traffic. The RDEIR also did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area.

Further, the February 16, 2015, derailment and explosion of an oil train in Rockland, West Virginia, a train comprised solely of CPC-1232 tanker cars, and travelling under the speed limit for the section of the track on which it was traveling, is a clear indication that the use of these cars as mitigation is inadequate to protect the public from rail oil spills.

The City of Simi Valley requests that additional environmental and risk analysis be completed, particularly for the communities like Simi Valley that the oil trains will travel through to serve the Phillips facility.

Bob Huber, Mayor Steven T. Sojka, Mayor Pro Tem Glen T. Becerra, Council Member Mike Judge, Council Member Keith L. Mashburn, Council Member

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For these reasons, the City of Simi Valley respectfully opposes the Phillips 66 Company Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project. Thank you for your consideration of this project's potential impacts to the residents of Simi Valley. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Assistant to the City Manager, Samantha Argabrite, at (805) 583-6707.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Huber
Mayor

cc: City Council
City Manager