Surfrider Foundation®
Santa Barbara Chapter
(805)899-BLUE(2583)

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PLANNING & BUILDING

June 18, 2015

Murry Wilson, Environmental Resource Specialist
County of San Luis Obispo Planning Department
876 Osos St, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We, the Executive Committee of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, are writing you regarding the Phillips 66 Railroad Spur project. Two of our Foundation's primary missions are to protect the coastal environment as well as ocean water quality. We find that the Phillips 66 Project is a significant threat to both of these values .

First, and of acute local concern, is the daily transport through our county of mile long trains, each filled with 2.4 million gallons of toxic sour crude oil and volatile diluents. Should there be a derailment and spill of this toxic liquid, local beaches and ocean would certainly be negatively impacted. Daily trains over a period of the next twenty years create an unacceptable and unnecessary risk to our coastal environment. Having recently experienced an oil spill into our local ocean waters from a land-based source at Refugio State Beach, we are keenly aware of the effects of oil flowing into a sensitive marine habitat. Even without the utter destruction of an explosion, a tanker car or whole train toppling into the Pacific from ocean-front tracks and spilling its contents would be an environmental disaster of major proportions.

Second, as a planet we are now in the midst of anthropogenic climate change and global warming caused by our burning of fossil fuels. In turn, ocean water levels are rising which threatens coastal environments and ocean water is becoming acidified which threatens coral reefs and phytoplankton, the base of the food chain. The extraction, transportation, refinement, and burning of tar sand oils increases CO2 levels in the atmosphere (which recently passed 400 ppm) and exacerbates climate change and global warming.

Third, while not a specific part of Surfrider's mission, we are very concerned about the threat of oil train derailments and consequent spills, fires, and explosions which threaten life and property in our county. The "blast zone" covers homes, businesses, schools, and sensitive environments.

Not being part of San Luis Obispo county, we have no say in this project. We are calling on you to deny the Phillips 66 project on behalf of the many thousands of us who will be impacted but have no voice.

For the Executive Committee of the Santa Barbara Chapter of Surfrider Foundation,

Dr. Mark Morey

Chapter Chair

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