

From: "David Bernstein" <djbernstein@earthlink.net>
To: <p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 11/19/2014 10:49 PM
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Philips 66 Rail Spur Project

Mr. Murry Wilson, SLO County Planning Department

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Imagine that you lived in a beautiful California county, a county known as one of the best places in the country to live, work, play, and retire...a county equally famous for its pristine beaches, its thriving agriculture, its world class wineries, and its excellent university.

Now imagine if that changed overnight.

That may sound overly dramatic and far-fetched, but it is a very real possibility if the proposed Philips 66 Rail Spur Project is approved. That project would bring 250 trains per year, each with 80 tanker cars, carrying a total of more than half a billion gallons of crude oil into our county. One has only to have been reading the newspaper for the past several years to know that sooner or later, an accidental oil spill will occur; it is inevitable. The REIR submitted by Philips 66 estimates the average incident rate for a spill of more than 100 gallons of oil at somewhere between 19 and 76 years. Those are just statistics; it could happen tomorrow or 50 years from now. The key questions are where the spill will happen and how significant it will be.

The REIR clearly states that an accidental oil spill along the Union Pacific Railroad mainline tracks, and the potential ensuing fire and/or explosion, would result in Class I impacts to water resources, agricultural crops, biologic resources, and cultural resources. Should that spill occur in a heavily populated area, such as Cal Poly or the City of San Luis Obispo (which is entirely possible given the potential for a runaway train on the Cuesta Grade), the results would be truly catastrophic! The economic impact alone, and the damage to our county's reputation, would be incalculable. If the unthinkable happens, people will want answers, and fingers will be pointed.

Please think long and hard about which side of history you want to be on. I urge you to vote NO PROJECT.

Sincerely,

David Bernstein
Nipomo, CA

BED-01

From: "David Bernstein" <djbernstein@earthlink.net>
To: <p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 11/19/2014 11:11 PM
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Philips 66 Rail Spur Project

Mr. Murry Wilson, SLO County Planning Department

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As a resident of Nipomo, I am very concerned about the impact of the proposed Philips 66 Rail Spur Project on our air quality. As you well know, we already have an air quality problem on the Mesa, to the point where the federal government may be forced to take action to bring us into compliance with federal air quality standards. Against that backdrop, it would seem that the proposed project will greatly exacerbate the problem.

BERN-02

The REIR lists 4 Class I Impacts to air quality: operational pollutant emissions, air toxic emissions from the Santa Maria Refinery, air toxic emissions from mainline rail operations, and greenhouse gas emissions. It would seem to me that any one of these would be enough to put the project in question, but 4 of them? I'm having trouble understanding why we are even considering this project, especially since Philips 66 can meet most of the refinery's objectives - albeit at a lower profit margin - with the No Project alternative, which in their words is "environmentally superior".

BERN-03

I urge you to vote NO PROJECT.

Sincerely,

David Bernstein
Nipomo, CA