

From: Kerstin Gutierrez <kkgpsyd@yahoo.com>
To: "p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us"
<p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 11/25/2014 11:04 AM
Subject: P66 Railspur

Mr. Murry Wilson
SLO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DEAR MR. WILSON:

This letter is to convey my deepest concerns regarding the proposed P66 Rail Terminal Project in Nipomo.

Firstly, a 45 day comment period does not provide the public with enough time to adequately and thoughtfully consider what could be significant and multiple impact of this project. Secondly, there appear to be several discrepancies in the REIR (such as how the proposed length of the trains will function given the proposed length and numbers of tracks). Lastly, missing from the REIR entirely, is discussion of the potential for noise disruption by train repairs. (Section 2.3.1 notes that existing track 765 will be repurposed as a "bad order" track, requiring repair before being moved again. Which repairs will be done on-site at Phillips, what time of day or night will they occur, what is the projected level of noise, and the proposed means of "mitigation"?).

GUK-01

GUK-02

GUK-03

Based on information from the REIR, it seems clear that there are several aspects of this project that not only cannot be "mitigated", but that can become increasingly noxious and variously threatening if this project is allowed to go through without substantial oversight and revision by the community representatives we've elected, as well as professionals duly equipped to offer substantive evaluation of the issues.

The major concerns of myself and my community include the negative impact from odors, gases and potential spills on the health and safety of the environment as well as on the human inhabitants of San Luis Obispo county; the potential for aesthetic decline from noise and light pollution (Trilogy residents will definitely see the lights from the project); negative consequence resulting from the inherent lack of safety in the construction of the rail cars proposed; and the lack of coordinated and compatible land use of the proposed site in conjunction with the surrounding areas which are agricultural and residential. (As depicted in the REIR, the KVA (Known viewing Area) appears to indicate that the rail terminal project would not be viewed by current residents and individuals participating in recreational activities in the area. However the photos presented are taken from a location that is at the intersection of Highway 1 and Via Concha, at an elevation which is much lower than that of the current residential community of Trilogy. This apparent misrepresentation seems of the proposed project is cause for additional concern, in that decisions about this project should not be made based on misinformation.)

GUK-04

GUK-05

In addition, with regard to odors and air pollutants, as noted in the REIR on page 7 (section 4.3), ozone is already of concern in the Nipomo region. When the additive effect of increased refinery practices and emissions is considered, it is clear that the Nipomo region will be exposed to even greater health risks. It is imperative that the planning commission consider the lack of compatibility of this project with the residential zoning of the region. Although compatible in the past, when raw material was delivered to the refinery by pipeline, the new project would significantly and negatively impact the economic and environmental status of this region, causing irrevocable damage to individual and public real estate values.

GUK-06

Our air quality should not be forfeited. It should be noted that according to the REIR itself, the number of CLASS I (e.g. impacts that cannot be mitigated to less than

significant levels) air quality impacts has been increased to more than double of the previous report. These include criteria pollutant emissions that exceed SLOCAPD thresholds; toxic emissions from the refinery and the activities of trains along the mainline rail route throughout SLOC that would generate toxic emissions that exceed thresholds; and greenhouse gas emissions that would exceed SLOCAPCD thresholds.

GUK-06
cont

Furthermore, please carefully scrutinize the claims that such a project would help the local economy by creating more jobs or adding to the revenues of the area. In fact, if one weighs the benefit of adding what is likely to be a mere ten or twelve jobs against the cost of the potential negative impacts, it doesn't make sense. Additionally, our government representatives should be aware that the economic contributions of the SLO community and the dollars brought to the community by the scenic and cultural attractions of the area would be greatly diminished by this project, whether or not an unwanted gas release occurred, or a rail car derailment occurred, or whether the initial flood of crude-oil-laden train cars failed to arouse concern.

GUK-07

Finally, of major concern, is the fact that P66 Railspur REIR fails to adequately address any of the very real and reasonable concerns of the residents of San Luis Obispo county, concerns that have been the basis of mutually agreed upon standards of living, of governing, and of planning.

GUK-08

If our representatives fail to take adequate steps to protect our health, our environment, and our economy, they will have violated the trust of the community as well as of future generations who deserve the same healthful, clean and beautiful surroundings that have brought so much gratification to those of us fortunate enough to live here now.

GUK-09

Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

K. Kerstin Gutierrez
968 Michele Court
Nipomo, CA 93444

Cc: file

K. Kerstin Gutierrez, Psy.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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