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Subject: Proposed Oil Train Project in Our Community Should be Stopped

Proposed Oil Train Project in Our Community Should be Stopped

The revision of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) regarding the proposed rail spur at the Nipomo Mesa Refinery has just come out and it acknowledges the existence of additional Class I air quality risks. It demonstrates that the county faces significant air pollution risks that cannot be mitigated.

HAH-01

Several California refineries are gearing up to handle volatile Bakken shale oil and sulfurous Alberta bitumen. This scramble is already increasing the toxic industrial blight to Bay Area locations. Now this blight is being brought to a location in SLO County that was planned and promoted to be free of undue visual, sonic and chemical pollution.

The CPUC has identified a number of Local Safety Hazard Sites (LSHS) within California, including the Cuesta Grade. Over the past 5 years there have been 58 derailments at or near LSHS sites. The DEIR acknowledges that the Cuesta Grade could be subject to a runaway train event (4.11-23). A runaway train could end up spilling its load and possibly burning in or near the city of San Luis Obispo.

HAH-02

Hydrocarbon deposits are abundant in the Alberta tar sands region and bitumen will be extracted for many years to come. In approving this project, the County would be making a long-term commitment to a lower quality of life and a significant risk of catastrophic damage. Ignoring the scientific consensus on climate change is the supreme folly of our time. Further investments in high-intensity fossil fuel extraction make a mockery of California's leadership position in reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

HAH-03

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue, Heidi Harmon

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"We need system change to fight climate change."

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