November 22, 2014

Murry Wilson, Environmental Resource Specialist
County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040
mwilson@co.slo.ca.us, p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing this letter in **SUPPORT** of the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project. The project's Recirculated Draft EIR provides a thorough examination of potential project impacts and mitigations measures.

The CEQA process is complex, but is a valuable tool for enabling decision makers and the community to look at important project areas such as noise, water usage, and lighting. The process also allows mitigation measures to be developed and evaluated. I have been an employee at the Refinery for over 25 years and have contributed to our community. I believe that if you take an honest look at and use sound judgment to evaluate the rail project, you will recognize its many qualities and approve the project.

Petroleum refining is a highly regulated industry. Although safe work practices should be common sense for any business, the strict regulatory regime affecting refining requires implementation of stringent practices to address environmental and safety concerns. In addition, for almost any change, major or minor, regulations require agency review prior to permitting.

Public concerns over rail safety with respect to recent rail incidents are understandable. However, provisions for rail transportation will be carefully inspected and approved by the agency assigned this task in the Department of Transportation. An inspector for this agency has already visited the site in preparing for this project. KOK-01

This project is good for the community because it keeps this refinery viable and allows continued employment of over 200 people in addition to supporting companies that include bottled water suppliers, laundry service, rental equipment and even MealClub, who delivers meals from various restaurants to the refinery. This project will also help the community as Phillips 66 will continue to pay property taxes and permit fees. These expenses support the community, the county and help employ agency staff.

If the project is not approved and Phillips 66 crude supply remains limited to California crudes, the plant may no longer be economic to operate. Phillips 66 may have only one choice, and that is to shut the business down, which will remove numerous high paying jobs available for the community. These head of household jobs generate income for families who buy homes in the community, shop at local stores and send their children to local schools.

In conclusion, I am writing in support of the recirculated Draft EIR that presents a sound and reasonable approach to mitigate impacts from this project. Please approve and certify the recirculated Draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Kristen M Kopp

Kristen Kopp
County resident, local community supporter and tax payer since 1980
805-462-8202