

From: Dawn Legg <dawnortizlegg@gmail.com>
To: p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 11/24/2014 02:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Rail Spur Project / Phillips 66

Please see attached letter for submission of comments on above project.

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

Dawn Legg

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Dawn Ortiz Legg Blandford

cell: 805-748-0827(See attached file: Phillips 66 Nov 2014.doc)

DAWN MARIE LEGG -BLANDFORD
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November 24, 2014

Planning Commissioners
c/o Ramona Hedges
County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Re: Phillips 66 Refinery Rail Expansion Project

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

As a concerned 23 year resident of San Luis Obispo County, I would like to comment on the Phillips 66 Rail Expansion project proposal.

Safety is the most important aspect of any project /development under consideration. Recent rail accidents throughout North America have alerted government officials to evaluate and enforce new standards for transport of heavy crude using rail infrastructure.

LED-01

I see the new standards as one positive result from devastating accidents and loss of life. I understand the high alert on the safety issue, however, I would like to share other considerations with the planning commission for their deliberations.

It is no secret United States infrastructure has been in serious decline. Transportation infrastructure is critical to our national security, economic viability and citizens' well-being and safety. Union Pacific's inspection and rail line improvements are a win-win as rail transportation for both materials and passengers must be expanded. Phillips 66 investment for new rail cars for safer crude transport is vital and a necessary requirement to this project. A robust rail system should be standard in the United States.

LED-02

An important aspect of this debate is that it appears crude oil is, has been and will continue to be transported through San Luis Obispo County. Should the P66 rail extension project be denied, that will not change this current rail transport route to and from other locations and facilities.

LED-03

In addition, if the P66 rail extension project is denied, there is no guarantee that the capacity to transport crude will not be utilized by other entities. Denial only means that the crude won't stop here in SLO for processing. Therefore, even without the P66 rail project extension, the region could still experience crude oil transported through SLO County five days a week, 80-100 cars a day.

An approval of the P66 rail extension is an opportunity to add a project condition of insuring SLO County emergency response preparedness is budgeted, teams are trained and ready for any possible incident – whether that crude is heading to P66 or some other facility.

LED-04

If project is denied, it is anticipated trucks from Bakersfield will be utilized to move the crude instead of the rail spur to the P66 refinery location. One could argue, P66 rail spur opposition has not reduced the risk, but increased it significantly by adding trucks, on the roadways, which are known to be a higher risk than rail. In addition, emissions from trucks will be significantly higher on air quality than rail.

LED-04
cont

To me, there are significant positive characteristics of the Phillips 66 Santa Maria facility. This facility: 1) has maintained a high level of safety through its decades of operation; 2) has been in compliance with environmental standards in California, a state with the nation's highest level of environmental protections in place; 3) provides strategic importance of having a processing facility in good standing like P66 refinery within our region. The "Buy Local" campaign appears to only apply to vegetables for some, but I see a facility such as P66 just as important.

LED-05

I am a strong proponent for renewable energy sources along with the reduction of fossil fuels to reduce climate change impacts. However, I still drive a vehicle that uses petroleum products. U.S. domestic oil production, done safely and with strong environmental protections is achievable. I do not want to be an environmental elitist and avoid my own responsibility to this fact. "Put it in someone else's backyard" is not acceptable for me.

LED-06

As a long time peace activist opposed to recent foreign wars, I have seen the aftermath of sending men and women to protect U.S. interests in oil producing regions (and the destruction of those regions). I think the opportunity to reduce our dependence on foreign sources means taking action. In addition, I know of veterans who have served in Iraq and would like to work at Phillips 66 Santa Maria refinery right now. Phillips 66 jobs are very important to our local economy.

LED-07

For all of these reasons, I would ask for the SLO County Planning Commission to support the rail spur project with the additional condition of emergency preparedness addressed completely.

LED-08

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dawn Legg Blandford