

Laurie Litman
301 27th St
Sacramento, CA 95816

Murry Wilson
SLO County Dept. of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, 93408

November 24, 2014

Re: Comments on the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Extension Project

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Please add these comments to the public legal record on the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Extension Project.

I am a resident of Sacramento and my family lives a block away from the railroad tracks, at a location where there is a difficult railroad crossing and a new development that will cause more traffic over the tracks. Many years ago a train derailed there and a few years ago a man was struck and killed by a train at that crossing. The Phillips 66 Rail Spur Extension would add two trains a day to threaten our family and community. This is in addition to other Bay Area refinery expansions that may add another 5 or more trains/day. The cumulative effects of these dangerous trains going through our community are unacceptable! We ask you to reject the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project for numerous reasons, all related to the dangers posed to the people, wildlife, and the environment affected by this project.

LIL-01

These oil trains are extremely dangerous, as evidenced by the many derailments, fires, and spills that have occurred in the last few years. But even without spills the dirty oil they carry will generate toxic emissions and greenhouse gas emissions that are unacceptable.

Tar sands are the dirtiest of crude oils. The danger of spills especially threatens our waterways as the bitumen sinks within hours to the bottom where it cannot be retrieved, while the added toxic diluents evaporate and cause toxic air pollution. Accidents can result in explosions depending on the particular diluents used to make the bitumen fluid enough to pour into tank cars. Tar sands are an intense carbon source, and gives off more greenhouse gas emissions than other oils. It also burns with high levels of sulfur dioxide. One byproduct is petroleum coke, which is left uncovered so particles can become airborne. Pet coke is too toxic to be allowed to burn in the U.S., but it is sold to China where it is burned in our shared atmosphere anyway. Tar sands means more carbon pollution. At every stage of the mining, transportation, and refining process, Canadian tar sands are more carbon intensive than other sources of oil. Bringing tar sands to California will undermine the state's efforts to be a global leader addressing climate disruption.

LIL-02

Oil trains create toxic air pollution every mile they travel in California. This is not just a problem for SLO, but for every community the trains pass through. The report admits that:

- (AQ.3): Operational activities of trains along the mainline rail route outside of SLO County associated with the Rail Spur Project would generate criteria pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds.
- (AQ.5): Operational activities of trains along the mainline rail route associated with the Rail Spur Project would generate toxic emissions that exceed thresholds.
- (AQ.6): Operational activities associated with the Rail Spur Project would generate GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions that exceed SLOCAPCD thresholds.

LIL-03

Finally, the dangers to our waterways should be enough to reject this project. We are in a drought and water is precious. A spill of tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River is still not cleaned up after more than 3 years and a billion dollars spent. We cannot afford a spill into the American River or other sensitive environmental areas along the route of these trains.

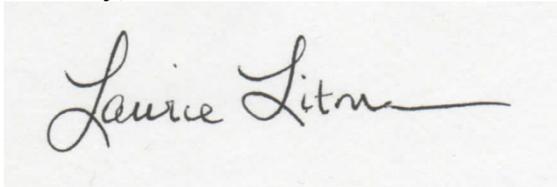
LIL-04

The IPCC has stated we have to stay within 2°C of temperature increase to avoid the worst of climate change. To do this we need to keep approximately 80% of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. How can you approve a project that threatens the health of people up and down the rail line and continues to threaten future generations through the increased impacts of climate change?

LIL-05

We need courageous elected officials who are willing to step up and make a difference. There is no question that this project creates significant, unavoidable, and unnecessary risks for our communities and our climate. Please be courageous and reject it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Litman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Laurie Litman