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Date: 11/19/2014 07:47 AM
Subject: Comment about Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Mr. Murry Wilson, SLO County Planning Department

This note is to urge the County Plan Board to recommend against the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project because the outcomes would be contrary to land use plans, would yield unacceptable health, safety and environmental impacts, and would not provide significant benefits to residents, visitors, and commerce in San Luis Obispo County.

OCJ-01

First, the increased intensity of industrial activity, both near the refinery and especially along the rail routes to be used, is completely inconsistent with several elements of the carefully established and highly satisfactory county land use plan for agricultural, scenic, residential, and commercial development. It is even possible that if the refinery had not been constructed prior to the present plan, its current activities might not be considered appropriate, much less those in the proposed Project.

OCJ-02

Second, the revised environmental impact report describes a number of Class 1 consequences of the Project. These include: a) exacerbating the current unhealthy amount of particulate and toxic air pollution; b) great danger from off-site accidents involving insufficiently safe tank cars, especially on the Cuesta Grade and through the cities; c) inadequate local capability to respond to likely emergency scenarios; and d) deleterious biological and agricultural effects from spills and accidents. Each of these effects alone might be sufficient to stop the Project; the combination of them makes it absolutely unacceptable.

OCJ-03

Third, the report omits or downplays several negative effects such as excessive noise and extensive lighting at the site and along the rail routes, and potential impacts on surface and ground water, that will have impacts much greater than described.

OCJ-04

Finally, the construction and operation of the Rail Spur activities seem to provide no major environmental enhancements for current and future residents, tourists, and businesses of the County.

OCJ-05

On balance, the sum total of the undesirable impacts would be very deleterious to the quality of life in a large portion of San Luis Obispo County, while there seem to be no benefits. The Project should not go forward.

Thank you for your attention.

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