

From: Amanda Schmidt <amandahigleyschmidt@gmail.com>
To: mwilson@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/03/2014 04:58 PM
Subject:

November 22, 2014

Murry Wilson
SLO County Dept. of Planning and Building 976, Osos Street, Room 200 San Luis Obispo, 93408 P66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Mr. Murry Wilson,

Thank you for adding my comments to the public record on the Phillips 66 Railspur Project.

I am a resident of Fair Oaks, California, and the proposed 80-car crude-oil train headed to the Santa Maria refinery 5 days a week will travel through the Sacramento region. I am concerned for a number of reasons.

SCA-01

First, operational activities associated with the Rail Spur Project would generate greenhouse gas emissions that exceed acceptable thresholds, which will contribute substantially to Climate Change. We should be abandoning all fossil fuels and focusing entirely on renewable energy, for the future of our children.

SCA-02

Second, I am very concerned about the health and safety risks of this project. Oil trains create toxic air pollution that increases risks in cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease. I am worried about the health of my young children if this project goes forward.

SCA-03

Third, the risk of oil spills and the resulting environmental devastation are very high along certain parts of the rail line. All three train routes into California include identified "high hazard" rail sections according to Office of Spill Prevention and Response Map. California has many untrustworthy old bridges not built to carry 100 heavy tank cars, such as the Carquinas Bridge at Benicia. The bridges are only now scheduled to receive minimal inspections for safety, but there is no money for repairs or replacement. Also, the risk of earthquakes in this area is high, since this route runs right along a seismic fault line.

SCA-04

Fourth, as a frequent Amtrak traveler, I am concerned about major disruptions to passenger & freight traffic. Amtrak is already delayed frequently by freight trains, and this would greatly exacerbate the problem. Also, in other regions, food and grain crops have been delayed or dumped when railroads chose to deliver more lucrative loads of crude oil instead. The livelihood of farmers was destroyed for the profit of oil companies, railroads and refineries. This is simply unethical and unacceptable.

SCA-05

I urge you to reject the Phillips 66 Railspur Proposal. It is harmful to the health of California residents, contributes to Climate Change, risks destroying our environment by running crude oil along an unsafe rail line, and is detrimental to rail traffic and the livelihood of farmers.

SCA-06

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Amanda Higley Schmidt
Fair Oaks, CA