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Date: 11/25/2014 11:08 AM
Subject: P66 Rail Terminal Projects - Comments on revised DEIR

Mr. Murry Wilson, SLO County Planning Department,

The October revision of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) acknowledges the existence of additional Class I air quality risks. It demonstrates that the county faces significant air pollution risks with the P66 Rail Spur project that cannot be mitigated.

SEM-01

The DEIR is still fundamentally deceptive, because it obscures the real purpose of the refinery's expansion. The purpose of the upgrade is to take advantage of the current glut of dirty, heavy crude coming out of North Dakota and Alberta. Several California refineries are gearing up to handle volatile Bakken shale oil and sulfurous Alberta bitumen. This scramble is already increasing the toxic industrial blight to Bay Area locations. Now this blight is being brought to a location in SLO County that was planned and promoted to be free of undue visual, sonic and chemical pollution.

SEM-02

Removal of the heavy sulfur content from tar sands crude creates significant sulfur dioxide fumes. Residential communities are located downwind of the Nipomo Mesa plant. Many of the residents are retired and suffer from impaired heart or respiratory function and would suffer under this new pollution source. The CPUC has identified a number of Local Safety Hazard Sites (LSHS) within California, including the Cuesta Grade. Over the past 5 years there have been 58 derailments at or near LSHS sites. The DEIR acknowledges that the Cuesta Grade could be subject to a runaway train event (4.11-23). Most of the heavy crude shipments will come from the north down the Cuesta Grade.

SEM-03

The top of the grade, at the Cuesta Pass, has a 7% slope. The weight of an 80-car oil train is estimated to be 11,600 tons. A runaway train could end up spilling its load and possibly burning in or near the city of San Luis Obispo. Hydrocarbon deposits are abundant in the Alberta tar sands region and bitumen will be extracted for many years to come. In approving this project, the County would be making a long-term commitment to a lower quality of life and a significant risk of catastrophic damage.

SEM-04

SEM-05

This project makes no sense in the context of an ongoing market glut of gas and oil. Existing California refinery capacity is capable of processing all the conventional crude we produce and import.

SEM-06

It may be that some special interests would like to turn San Luis Obispo County into another Kern County. This project would be a big first step down that road. Once this was accomplished it would be easier to justify expanding hydraulic fracturing into our agricultural zones.

SEM-07

This project makes no sense while our scientists are beseeching policy makers to find ways to leave as much of the dirty stuff as possible in the ground. Ignoring the scientific consensus on climate change is the supreme folly of our time. I'm asking our County leadership not to join this march of folly. Further investments in high-

SEM-08

intensity fossil fuel extraction make a mockery of California's leadership position in reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

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The Phillips 66 refinery upgrade represents a betrayal of neighboring area residents who believed they were investing their life savings in a safe, peaceful and pollution-free environment. It is a hazard to all other County residents who live within oil-spill range of the UP rail line or depend on the tourist trade. Those investments in high-quality living are now threatened. Please do not approve this project.

SEM-09

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