

From: Jeffrey Thompson <jthompson178@cox.net>
To: p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 11/17/2014 06:11 PM
Subject: Please APPROVE Oil Train Expansion

Dear San Luis Obispo County Commissioners and Supervisors,

I am writing to strongly urge you to APPROVE the proposed oil-by-rail project at the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery. Bringing crude oil from our friendly northern neighbors (Canada) will dramatically improve our country's strategic status, helping eliminate any need for us to purchase crude oil from countries that sponsor terrorism.

THJ-01

I am strongly IN SUPPORT of this project for several reasons:

1. Emergency responders in along the route are prepared for spills, in the unlikely event that one should occur. The EIR cites accurate, relevant rail accident rates. These rates are far below any other form of bulk liquid transportation (other than pipeline), and document that the risk of a significant spill is remote.

THJ-02

2. The EIR's worst-case scenario estimates a spill of 180,000 gallons, or roughly six tank cars of crude. Although tank car trains are often 10 to 20 times longer than six cars, an actual derailment and spillage would likely involve no more than 6 cars, and usually far less. In other words, a realistic worst case scenario is no more than 6 cars. While a worst case scenario would be a tragedy, it is something that can be effectively dealt with.

THJ-03

3. The emissions that will accompany this project do not increase risk to public health. In its latest environmental review Phillips 66 admits that its proposed oil train facility will create "significant and unavoidable" levels of air pollution along the rail route. However, the levels are not high enough to have any significant impact on public health. The fundamental principle of toxicology is "the dose is the poison" which means that low levels of chemicals (which are harmful at high levels) are not dangerous.

THJ-04

4. Some would argue that this project will have a negative impact on the climate, due to carbon dioxide emissions. Assuming there is proven science linking the two, the crude oil will be processed and used somewhere. There is no reason that it cannot be processed in California, thereby providing good jobs and additional tax revenue to the County and State.

THJ-05

For all these reasons, I urge the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to APPROVE the Phillips 66 proposed rail spur.

THJ-06

Jeffrey Thompson
3801 Scottsdale Drive
Irvine, CA 92606
US