

From: Arlene Versaw <arleneversaw@gmail.com>
To: p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 11/05/2014 06:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Attention: Murry Wilson

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We have been San Luis Obispo County residents since 1990 and a Nipomo Mesa residents since early 2007.

We would like to go on record as being strongly opposed to the above-named project because it represents several significant risks to county residents.

The Governor's director of a task force created to evaluate oil-by-rail issues in California spoke to the Air Pollution Control Board, which I attended. Her presentation included the fact that SLO County was one of the highest risk counties in the state for moving oil by rail because of infrastructure and geographical challenges, such as the Cuesta Grade, and the fact that we are one of a few counties that does not have a certified hazmat response team. The Phillips 66 project will only substantially increase the number of trains and rail cars traversing our county. We already have a problem; clearly this project will only make it much worse.

Additionally, the Nipomo Mesa is faced with a significant air pollution health hazard. We exceed state and federal standards established to protect public health with regularity. The project's revised EIR stipulates that there are five significant and unavoidable impacts. Any discussion about mitigation leads to the conclusion that there are no feasible, enforceable actions that would resolve the negative impacts. Furthermore, the REIR only addresses emission increase thresholds even as the County identified a list of criteria under CEQA that should be used as a basis for determining "significance."

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Although our residence is not as close to the refinery as others, the County cannot ignore a host of other negative impacts to Mesa residents: light, noise, visual impacts. However, the fundamental reasons for denying the project should reside in the potential safety risks to the ENTIRE county promulgated by increased oil transport by rail and the untenable increase in health risks associated with additional air pollution.

Exposing County residents to health and safety risks to the benefit of a singular business would be irresponsible.

Larry and Arlene Versaw
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