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To: p66-railspur-comments@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 11/18/2014 12:03 PM
Subject: Reject the Phillips 66 oil train proposal

Mr. Murry Wilson
San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

Dear San Luis Obispo Supervisors and Planning Department:

I am concerned about the proposed oil-by-rail project at the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery. The Phillips 66 project puts communities all along the course of those rail lines at risk. This project presents a significant risk to my densely-settled county and to many other California communities.

The train route goes down the east side of San Francisco Bay and through a major urban complex of over a million people in Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley.

KAF-01

We have seen multiple news reports of train accidents with spills of crude oil, train crashes, and fires. Your EIR should include recent data from the US and Canada, both of which have experienced increased crude-by-rail incidents as more oil is being shipped by train. Old and unsafe tank cars are being widely used and have not yet been replaced.

A spill of hundreds of thousands or even millions of gallons of crude oil would not only threaten public safety. It would likely contaminate the underground aquifer upon which many local cities depend for their water supply. This is the last thing we need in a time of drought, and with predictions of continuing drought in the future.

KAF-02

Toxic air emissions leaking out of the tank cars would increase the already-significant levels of air pollution. The train route runs through a large valley area with mountains on both side that trap air pollution.

KAF-03

Canadian tar sands are among the most carbon intensive and toxic on earth. Thwarted by opposition to transmission of tar sands via pipeline, oil companies like Phillips 66 are turning to shipping tar sands crude by rail. Communities along pipelines have experienced first hand what spills of tar sands crude can mean. We do not want to have to face such spills n our area.

KAF-04

I ask that the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors reject the Phillips 66 proposed rail spur. This project creates significant, unavoidable, and unnecessary risks for our communities and our climate.

KAF-05

Respectfully yours,