To: Murry Wilson
San Luis Obispo – County Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos st. Rm 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040
Reference: Recirculated draft EIR for the Phillips 66 rail spur extension project
Date: November 24, 2014

Dear Mr. Wilson,

The Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery is a **Refinery**. It has been a Refinery for close to 60 years! Most people who live and work on the Nipomo Mesa have come to this area after it started and all those people should know it is there. It is rather hard to miss with its lights at night and all the signs on Highway One and you can actually see it. It is doing what refineries do: they refine oil and they have a pretty good record in terms of their safety, their community involvement and being a good neighbor.

My name is Cees Dobbe and together with my wife we started agricultural businesses right next to the refinery in 1986 and beyond. We have been living in Nipomo since 1989. My wife and I own several parcels adjacent to the refinery totaling close to 250 acres with most of it in strawberry production.

CEQA has a definite role in California. It also has its limits. Unfortunately the DEIR on the Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project goes further than what is required by CEQA. The recirculation of the DEIR basically addressed areas of concern that were already addressed in the first DEIR. The extension of the study area also goes outside the normal scope of CEQA. The DEIR did turn out to be very comprehensive and exhaustive. It should be allowed to move to a final EIR so it can get a public hearing as soon as is possible.

The competitive arena for sourcing oil for the refinery has changed since they do not own any oil production facilities in their pipeline area. Giving them the opportunity to build their rail spur extensions will allow them to stay competitive. The competitive option of the railroad might even give the refinery price negotiation leverage so they can continue to use the pipeline option more than is currently assumed. This project will NOT result in more oil refined at their facility. The effects of the rail spur project on our community are minimal. DOC-01

Disallowing this project to go ahead would send a bad signal to the current business community in our County and will scare away potential businesses looking at our County for doing business here. This project is a classic case where a business needs to make changes to deal with changing competitive forces. The Refinery is going above and beyond to make sure it will be done in a responsible way with minimal impact to the community. The highly regulated arena they are working in will assure that it will be done according to any approved plans.

My sincere hope is that anyone who has authority to move this process forward and get it towards a deserved approval will not let their opinions be clouded by issues that are beyond the scope of our local issue here. People and groups that do not like oil, do not like a certain kind of oil, do not like a refinery or do not like any business activity near them should not be able to abuse this issue to further their goals.

In order to support a public sector we need a strong private sector. The Refinery is part of this private sector. They have provided substantial tax dollars directly and indirectly to our County. They provide much needed high paying jobs.

So, in conclusion, I support this project. I have nothing to gain from this project but I believe it is in the best interest of our community to allow a responsible business to go forward with a safe and sound project that will allow them to stay competitive.

Regards,

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