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Date: 10/24/2014 08:37 AM

Subject: Fwd: Conoco Phillips Rail Spur

Mr. Murry Wilson
Environmental Resource Specialist
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos St. Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I am writing this letter in regards to the plans that have been presented by Phillips Conoco to develop a "Rail Spur" on their property on the Mesa of Nipomo. I know that you have or will be receiving letters expressing concern about this project and the hazards that this project can present. There are issues of pollution and possible accidents that are extremely disturbing to someone who is living in this area. We purchased our first home in Trilogy Monarch Dunes in January 2010 on the western edge of the development and sold it last year to get away from the light and air pollution from the refinery. We purchased our second home in Trilogy in January, 2013 about 1 mile further east.

Since I am unclear as to when this project was first proposed to the board I would like to ask the board to consider their responsibility to the people living on the Mesa. At one point in time, when Conoco Phillips first arrived on the Mesa, the area was considered very rural, with a very low population of people, but a high population of animals and eucalyptus trees. There were very few homes and the area was covered with trees. At that time, a project such as what they are proposing would have impacted the animals residing in the area, but the trees could possibly have absorbed some of the pollution and so the residents living in the lower part of Nipomo may not have been impacted so greatly by the light and air and noise pollution that will be a part of this project. Of course an accident occurring such as the ones that have recently occurred in North Dakota and Canada with the volatile products that are being carried in the inadequately prepared rail cars would have probably still wiped out the center of Nipomo or damaged the environment to the extent that people would not have been able to live there in the same way, so some people would have been dramatically impacted.

However, at some point in time the planning board and the people of Nipomo decided that they did not want to remain a rural community and plans were proposed and passed by the planning board to allow the Mesa area to develop into a residential area. This change may have occurred to increase the tax revenues for the community and to expand the services that were able to be provided to the people

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living in Nipomo and the surrounding areas. For whatever reason, the board has approved the building that has allowed the population of Nipomo to increase 80.24% since 1990. That would indicate that in 1965 or when Phillips Conoco plant was built, there were very few people living in the area of the plant. Population wise it may have been similar to the area of North Dakota where the last explosion occurred from the rail carrying fuel products.

There are many developments, such as Black Lake, Cypress Ridge and Trilogy that were allowed to be built with great plans of expanding the area to include more golf courses, hotels, and to become an area which is considered a great place to retire and a place of destination. More individual homes were built with the blessing of the planning board. The mean home value increased from \$189,000 in 2000 to \$561,000 in 2011. That represents a large increase in the tax coffers to be used for the betterment of Nipomo and surrounding areas. Many of those homes that have increased the value of this area are situated on or near the Mesa. People have made the decision to move to this area based on the idea that the planning board of the community had wanted this change to occur and that they would be overseeing and protecting the property and the lives of the people that they have encouraged to live in Nipomo.

I am hoping that this letter helps you to recognize the responsibility that you have to assure that what happens in the area will not destroy the value, the environment, and the great plan for the future of this area, the plan that was determined by your committee to go forward many years ago that would change this area from eucalyptus trees to residences. Needless to say, you have a responsibility to assure that people living in the area are safe from being attacked by large corporations sending pollutants and setting up a dangerous environmental hazard in their back yards that would terminate any plans for future life.

I urge you to take this matter seriously. If you read about what has happened recently you will realize that other people who had similar decisions to make did not recognize the full extent of their decisions and many people have suffered and much damage has been done to the environment.

Sincerely,

Robert & June Swaim
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