January 22, 2014

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

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PLANNING & BUILDING

Dear Mr. Wilson;

We are writing in reference to the Phillips Rail Spur Extension Project. After reviewing the Draft EIR, recent articles regarding safety of shipments of crude oil by rail cars, and information on the volatility of "Bakken" crude oil, we are convinced this project should be viewed with great caution and all proposed mitigation measures cited in the EIR be confirmed for feasibility and effectiveness.

Certainly, the project is more than presented in the title "Rail Spur". It involves new distribution methods, new pumping systems, and more than 5 times the current amount of rail traffic to and from the facility. It involves the probable transport of more volatile oil. Recent articles have confirmed that rail cars are not all constructed to manage the transport of such materials. Until the equipment bringing such shipments into our community is considered to up to required standards, no shipments should be received. The Federal Railroad Administration is currently examining this issue. AST-1

Potential effects on air quality, noise, light, and odor are discussed in the EIR with mitigation methods. To my knowledge, Phillips has not agreed to these. We must have concrete methods set forth by Phillips to reduce all these impacts. Residents along Highway 1, especially in the Nipomo Mesa area, are already dealing with significant air quality issues from the Fugitive Dust in the area. Even the slightest impact on this already harmful situation is unacceptable.

This is a project with many considerations and great potential impact on our local housing market, tourism, and overall economy. The final EIR and any decisions by the Planning Board must be taken slowly and carefully. Residents of the surrounding community need to be included in discussions with Phillips.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Ashford
Susan Ashford

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