

From: "S.W. Ela" <stephenwela@gmail.com>
To: Murry Wilson <mwilson@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: "Steven McMasters <smcmasters@co.slo.ca.us>"
<jim@jimirving.com>, Jim Irving <jim@jimirving.com>
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Subject: Comments on dEIR for Phillips proposal

Steve Ela Paso Robles
sw.ela@me.com

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Comments on the draft Environmental Impact Review (dEIR) for the Phillips
66 Santa Maria Refinery Throughput Increase Project

1. This draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR) is designed for importing heavy Canadian Tar Sands crude oil rather than bringing Bakken field light crude oil from North Dakota to San Luis Obispo county.

The Phillips refinery currently refines heavy crude oils — including asphalt crude oils locally produced. It does not refine volatile Bakken field crude oils. The refinery would have to be rebuilt – at a cost of tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars – in order to handle volatile crude oils. This reality is applied to all following comments.

ELS-1

2. When the Obama Administration denies permitting of the Keystone XL pipeline those – like the UP– will still try to profit on tar-sands dirty energy by bringing it into our county.

The primary way they will attempt do this is by rail. See the New York Times of January 25 2014 in which Sarah Wheaton stated that “... other methods of transport, like rail ... ” will be used.

When the UP attempts to bring heavy crude oil into our county the political and economic effects are easy to imagine. Many people have already been arrested opposing the Keystone XL pipeline. (See the NY Times article cited in the paragraph above.) More will be arrested when the Obama administration denies the pipeline and those – like the UP– still try to profit on tar-sands dirty energy by bringing it into our county.

ELS-2

Our law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and courts will be overwhelmed. Many elected officials and community members, myself included, will sit down on the UP’s tracks. We can expect the effects of these actions to last for years if not for decades.

3. The Union Pacific (the UP) can use an electric locomotive at the Nipomo site, as is already required at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Using such will pay for mitigations required, including noise, asthma, black soot spreading east leading to premature snow melt, etc.

ELS-3

But can the UP be compelled to use an electric locomotive? If the Planning Commission can do so, it will be a definite improvement on the project.

ELS-3

4. The UP should put no more money into transporting dirty non-renewable energy. Instead, the UP should put those funds into clean renewable energy on the huge amount of land it owns.

At the Phillips site, for instance, the UP can use solar, large turbines, micro-wind turbines, or a mix of these. The power so generated can be moved across the Guadalupe River and will significantly cut the fossil energy used by Santa Maria, a city of some half-million residents. The chances are great that the UP will get a greater rate of return on its funds than it will by moving tar sands crude oil around.

ELS-4

This approach can be generalized. So, for instance, the UP's southerly main line across Wyoming can supply power to Evanston, Green River, Rawlins, Laramie, and Cheyenne, thus contributing significant clean renewable power to all of these towns and cities

5. The UP can use its funds to purchase those pieces of roadbed which are not wide enough for two tracks between San Luis Obispo and Orcutt. That can then be used for a light rail line between those two sites. Having frequent light rail trains running this route – stopping at the cities and towns in South County – will cut crowding and increase freeway speeds, thus leading to better gas milages, shorter commute times, and lower air pollution, thus in turn leading to lower asthma rates.

ELS-5

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