

January 24, 2014

Murry Wilson, Environmental Resource Specialist  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Department of Planning and Building  
976 Osos Street, Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing this letter in support of the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project. The project, as presented in the Draft EIR provides a thorough examination of project impacts and potential mitigation. From the meetings that I attended, and from comments in various “news” sources it appears the benefits from this project to the local community are ignored while the frenzy stirred by various environmental watch groups is the focus of media attention. As a result, people in the community are exposed to poorly understood descriptions of the project, or misinformation. As an employee of the refinery, and as a parent who has raised a family here, I suggest you utilize sound judgment and common sense to evaluate this project. If you do, you will recognize its merits and approve the project.

Petroleum refining is a highly regulated industry.

Although safe work practices should be common sense for any business, the strict regulatory regime affecting refining requires implementation of stringent practices to address environmental and safety concerns. In addition, regulations require agency review prior to permitting for just about any significant change.

Public concerns over rail safety with respect to recent rail incidents are understandable. However, provisions for rail transportation will be carefully inspected and approved by the agency assigned this task in the Department of Transportation. An inspector for this agency has already visited the site in preparing for this project.

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Why is this Project good for the community?

Any increase in project emissions or perceived safety hazards are carefully considered and will be appropriately mitigated by Phillips 66, as provided in the Draft EIR. This process protects the community.

The rail spur project will improve the refinery’s economic viability. If the crude supply for this refinery remains limited to California crudes, the plant may no longer be economic to operate. The California crude market is prevented from realizing many of the advantages of new oil producing technologies that have created prosperity in other areas of the country due to lengthy regulatory permitting process. Phillips 66, like any business, must constantly review business options. If the project is approved, it likely would keep the plant profitable. This will help the community and workers as the company will continue to pay property taxes and permit fees. These expenses support the community, the county and help employ agency staff. IF the

project is not approved, Phillips 66 may choose to follow other businesses and move its operations to a more business friendly state.

The project will add to the number of high paying jobs available for the community.

In conclusion, I am writing in support of the Draft EIR that presents a sound and reasonable approach to mitigate impacts from this project.

Please approve and certify the Draft EIR.

Sincerely,

Marty Hall-Burr  
Central Coast resident and working parent  
805-934-0327

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