



January 27, 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

Re: Support of Santa Maria Refinery Rail Project

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As a native of San Luis Obispo County I have been here 8 years longer than the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery which has been quietly doing its job for 60 years. For 5 of those years I owned a trucking company that transported an operational byproduct (gypsum) from this facility to agricultural operations throughout northern San Luis Obispo County and the San Joaquin Valley. Through my engagement as a business owner in the County for over 40 years, I commend the ongoing outreach by the refinery managers to the community that have kept us informed; they welcome our questions and address our concerns. What I have observed is a business that operates safely and with respect for our community. I have friends who work at the refinery and I know personally that the commitment and caring extends to every staff member. The refinery is more than just an oil facility. It is important to South County and to the Central Coast in general.

WIR-1

The refinery today needs to change its operations slightly in order to continue to operate efficiently -- no different than has gone on for 60 years. While every business has to adapt to changing market conditions to survive, not everyone's changes are subject to the scrutiny the refinery is managing. The draft EIR is long, thorough and addresses every detail of the project.

My conclusion is an easy one. I believe a 60 year track record of sound operations, coupled with an EIR that indicates the project is manageable should add up to a "yes" vote for the rail project request.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Willhoit

Cc: Jim Anderson

Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Railway Project Manager

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