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PLANNING & BUILDING

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 have lived and worked in San Luis Obispo County for almost 30 years. For the past 23 years I have interacted with the people at the refinery in a wide variety of settings and circumstances both professional and personal. I know that the refinery has been on the Mesa for over 60 years and has contributed significantly to the local economy while being a good steward to both the community and environment.

I have found through my interaction with the employees, that the facility operates safely and is a respectful member of the community. I have experienced personally that throughout the years, the refinery managers have gone through great lengths to reach out to the community to maintain a dialog and keep the public informed. I see that even more today with Jerry Stumbo. He is always available to answer any questions and address any concerns. I have many friends who work at the refinery and I know personally that the commitment and caring extends to every staff member.

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The refinery is more than just an oil facility. In this day and age where well-paying local head of household jobs are in short supply, the refinery is important to South County and to the Central Coast in general. This extends to not only the people that work at the refinery but also to the many jobs that this facility generates locally.

I am aware that the refinery today needs to be able to adjust its operations in order to continue to operate efficiently. While every business has to adapt to changing market conditions to survive, not every one's changes are subject to the scrutiny the refinery is managing. The draft EIR is long and thorough and I truly feel that it addresses every detail of the project.

Having looked at this project in detail 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 very strong "yes" vote for the rail project request.

Sincerely,

Tom Zehnder
4553 Wavertree St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 441-9342