MISTRAS | Services Division
Asset Protection Solutions

Torrance: P: (310) 793-7173 • F: (310) 793-7298
3551 Voyager St Suite 104 • Torrance, CA 90503
www.mistrasgroup.com

January 17, 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:

Our company, Mistras Group, has a longtime relationship with the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery. We are a contract labor source that provides 6 employees who perform industrial inspection services such as ultrasonic thickness measurements, radiographic examination of welds, visual inspections, and other quality control and quality assurance services. We are intimately familiar with the refinery operations.

Many people only know the refinery by what they see driving by: an industrial oil operation with large equipment operating on the Nipomo Mesa. What they don't see and may not know is the way this refinery operates. Huge investment has been made in recent years to reduce the refinery's environmental impacts and the refinery works closely with the Air Pollution Control District and other regulators to assure the best in operations. Every single member of the refinery staff works with safety as his or her number one priority. Without question, refinery management and staff value safety and environmental considerations above refinery production. Refinery staff members are committed not just to their jobs, but to their community, volunteering time, money and passion to dozens of local organizations.

The issue at hand is approval of the draft EIR that will enable the refinery's rail project request. As you review the EIR and its suggested mitigations, I hope you will consider the project in its total context. The refinery is more than a collection of conditions and processes. It is a business that has been critically important to the local area for more than 60 years.

The EIR addresses the rail project specifically. It is not intended, nor should it be allowed, to become a line in the sand on overall oil policy or the statewide debate on California's energy future. The EIR stands on its own merit for a project that does the same. The EIR's recommended mitigations pave the way for project approval. MISTRAS-01

Please certify the EIR and move ahead with the rail project.

Sincerely,

Colm Walsh
General Manager

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| MISTRAS-01 | CEQA requires state and local agencies within California to follow a protocol of analysis and public disclosure of environmental impacts of proposed projects and adopt all feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. An EIR is an informational tool for the local agencies and decision makers to use in approving or denying a project. |