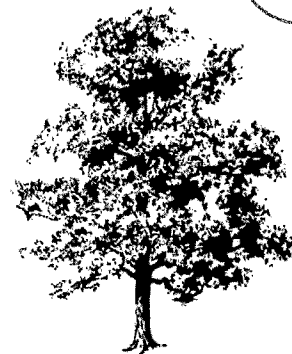


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WE Watch, P.O Box 830, Solvang CA93464



March 3, 2022

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
FROM: WE Watch, Nancy Emerson, President
RE: Exxon Mobil Interim Trucking Project

WE Watch asks you to please carefully consider all aspects of the proposed Exxon Mobil Interim Trucking Project. Our comments focus on how this project would impact the Santa Ynez Valley 's 101 route north of the Gaviota Tunnel to the Los Alamos Valley and how Exxon failed to protect itself from pipeline problems.

Highway 101 through our Valley has a history of road closing crashes on the S curves north of the Gaviota Tunnel, on the steep Nojoqui Grade and at 5-6 bridges crossing and recrossing Nojoqui Creek. Oil spills in this area would very negatively impact water courses.

Any incident with a jack-knifed or overturned tanker on this route would immediately close 101. Right now, with no new trucks from this project, the Valley can be cut off from the South Coast because both 101 and 154 have experienced crashes on the same day.

We know diesel fumes and accompanying particulate matter have damaging effects on air quality and on our respiratory health, immune response, and chronic illness. Won't this number of diesel trucks cause more air quality problems in the Santa Ynez Valley (and elsewhere as the County struggles to meet healthful air standards?)

Why should the County place our residents at risk because of oil industry problems? The pipeline break which made it impossible for Exxon to move oil via pipeline, as required, was the result of the oil industry cutting corners. Exxon Mobil failed to monitor the pipeline company carefully and require updating of the pipeline and its technology. It must live with the consequences of that failure.

For the above reasons, as well as the issues raised countywide by other organizations, we oppose this project as proposed by Exxon Mobil.