

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

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From: Grant Helete <grant@ecoslo.org>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:16 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Written Comment RE: ExxonMobil Interim Trucking for SYU Phased Restart Project
Attachments: ECOSLO_SYU_Trucking_Comment_BoS.pdf



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Good morning,

I am writing on behalf of ECOSLO - Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo. Attached you will find a written comment from ECOSLO regarding the hearing on the ExxonMobil Interim Trucking for Santa Ynez Unit Phased Restart Project at tomorrow's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Please let me know if there are any issues with the pdf file or if anything else is needed.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration,

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Protecting and preserving San Luis Obispo County's natural environment since 1971

Dear Chair Hartmann and Supervisors,

As a representative of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO), I am writing to urge the Board to act on the recommendation put forward by the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission and deny the ExxonMobil Interim Trucking for the Santa Ynez Unit Phased Restart Project. ECOSLO is gravely concerned about the risks of this Project and in particular the impacts it may have on San Luis Obispo County residents, whom this proposed Project potentially impacts.

Working as an environmental nonprofit in San Luis Obispo County for the last 50 years, ECOSLO is dedicated to protecting the natural environment and environmental justice on the Central Coast of California. This Project poses a direct threat to the environment and public health of the Central Coast by allowing ExxonMobil to produce more oil and gas and further exacerbate the climate crisis as the Final Environmental Impact Report of the Project estimates that it will generate approximately 317,043 CO₂e/year. Putting such a vast amount of additional emissions into the air threatens the progress that California has made in the fight against the climate crisis and will only worsen the devastating impacts that counties up and down the Central Coast already face such as drought, sea level rise, and wildfires among many others.

The trucking aspect of the proposal would also put residents in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties at risk by allowing ExxonMobil to send 173,740 full truck trips, as well as 347,480 one-way trips, along Highway 101 and Route 166 through San Luis Obispo county to refineries in northern Santa Barbara and Kern counties. This would result in the total transport of over one billion gallons of crude over the lifespan of the project, much of it traveling over the narrow and tight roadways of Route 166. We do not need to look back long to see why trucking oil across Route 166 is a dangerous idea. In just March of 2020, an oil tanker crashed on Route 166 and spilled over 4,500 gallons of crude oil into the Cuyama River near the Twitchell Reservoir. With up to 68 additional oil tanker trucks per day carrying crude across Route 166 over the lifespan of the Project, the risks of another accident are simply too high.

For these reasons, ECOSLO is urging the Board to follow the guidance of the Planning Commission and deny the proposal to restart the Santa Ynez Unit platforms and Las Flores Canyon processing facility, along with trucking its oil through Santa Barbara and parts of San Luis Obispo counties. The approval of this Project would create a danger to public health and the environment that we simply cannot afford.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and consideration,

Grant Helete, Community Organizer
ECOSLO - Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo