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Supervisor Salud Carbajal, 1st District
Supervisor Janet Wolf, 2nd District and Chair
Supervisor Doreen Farr, 3rd District
Supervisor Peter Adam, 4th District and Vice Chair
Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, 5th District

Phillips 66 Refinery Rail Spur and Oil Trains

Supervisors:

Thank you for being so responsive to citizen concerns, and taking up this important subject.

Thanks to County Staff, and the elected representatives of cities and counties throughout the state who have researched this subject, you now have a thorough analysis of the enormous problems of shipping crude oil by rail. We hope that the Board will take a strong position to protect our County from this ill-conceived project.

The County of Santa Barbara should add its voice to the rising tide of of opposition throughout California requesting denial of the project by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. If the project were to be approved, cities and counties along the rail routes, and to a large extent the state itself, would be pre-empted by Federal law from taking substantive actions related to the mainline railroad and the contents of the tank cars.

There is no net benefit from this project to the people of your county that would override the inevitability of potentially catastrophic accidents.

To recap quickly the consequences of this proposed crude oil by rail project:

- Five hundred and twenty mile-and-a-half mile-long trains annually, each hauling 80 oil tankers.
- Highly flammable tar sands cargo, one of the world's most environmentally destructive sources of fuel.
- Air pollution from locomotive diesel exhaust, and the refining of tar sands.
- Noise pollution from blaring whistles and track noise.
- The potential for derailments and oil spills, huge explosions, fire and toxic smoke.
- The overwhelming of first responder capability in small towns and rural areas.
- The potential for severe public and private property damage, personal injuries and deaths.
- Long trains blocking emergency vehicles, and derailments blocking main roads completely.
- The potential to damage the reputation of our county as a place to live, work and visit.
- The potential to damage the economic well-being of our homeowners and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter, and for taking action on behalf of the citizens of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Jim Taylor
Vice President, Carpinteria Valley Association

Aug 27, 2015