

#3

Public Comment

Ramirez, Angelica

**From:** Emily Dominguez <emily@sloclimatecoalition.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Item 3: Say NO to ExxonMobil's dangerous oil drilling and trucking scheme  
**Attachments:** SLO Climate Coalition- SB County BOS March 7.pdf

LATE  
DIST

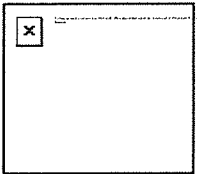
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Please see attached letter regarding Item 3 on tomorrow's agenda.

Thank you,

--  
 Emily Dominguez (*she/her/ella*)  
 Climate Justice Organizer  
 SLO Climate Coalition  
 (805) 354-3516  
[emily@sloclimatecoalition.org](mailto:emily@sloclimatecoalition.org)





March 7, 2022

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the SLO Climate Coalition in opposition to the dangerous Exxon trucking proposal. This project will significantly harm the long-term health, safety, and economic sustainability of Santa Barbara County residents, and the risks associated with this project extend beyond Santa Barbara County lines. For this reason, the SLO Climate Coalition urges you to deny this project as recommended by the Santa Barbara Planning Commission.

The Exxon trucking project is not a sustainable solution for the health, safety, and economic viability of Santa Barbara residents. The proposed potential economic impacts of this project are not worth the associated risks. The Exxon trucking project's supporters have pushed a narrative of job production, which is an attempt to distract from the dangerous reality of implementing this project. Instead, the project digs Santa Barbara County deeper into the inevitable failure of the fossil fuel industry. As the UN Secretary General explains, "Fossil fuels are a dead end – for our planet, for humanity, and yes, for economies." It is irresponsible to support projects that further Santa Barbara County's reliance on the fossil fuel industry. Santa Barbara County should invest its resources into renewable energy production, which has the potential to provide safer, more efficient, well-paying jobs to residents.

Producing oil from offshore platforms and processing it on the Gaviota coast would catalyze a suite of environmental risks that were not properly analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report. ExxonMobil's facilities significantly contributed to air pollution in Santa Barbara County while in service. Additionally, the facility houses dangerous and toxic materials in an area that is regularly burned during wildfire season. The area has burned by wildfire twice in the 6 years since the facilities were shut down due to an oil spill, and the recent Alisal fire burned onto ExxonMobil's property. It is easy to imagine the catastrophic potential of reinstating these facilities in an area so vulnerable to the destruction of wildfires.

On top of the risks associated with the facility's location and pollution production, the proposed trucking route travels along sections of road with above average accident rates; increasing the magnitude of the risk to residents along the entire trucking route. Highway 166 is a treacherous, hard to reach, sometimes icy road without reliable cell phone service, making it difficult for first responders to access during an emergency. Highway 166 is not a viable option for the volume of oil to be transported- **460,000 gallons of oil daily equates to 70 tanker trucks traveling along the Santa Barbara/SLO County border and into Kern County every single day.** Supporting this project means adding one tanker truck every 10 minutes to an already crowded Highway 166, increasing the likelihood of severe traffic and collisions. Supporting this project



puts Santa Barbara residents at risk and crosses a line by putting SLO County and Kern County residents at risk in order to meet the transport needs of this project.

Ultimately, the risks and inevitable danger associated with this project significantly outweigh the potential benefits of its implementation. The risks of coastal oil spills, in addition to the toxic fire, smoke, and pollution risks are amplified by the hazardous trucking route from the processing facility to Maricopa. This is not a reasonable cost to expect Santa Barbara County residents and everyone along the trucking route to bear. Thank you for denying this dangerous and unacceptable oil trucking project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Dominguez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Emily Dominguez (*she/her/ella*)  
Climate Justice Organizer  
SLO Climate Coalition  
(805) 354-3516  
[emily@sloclimatecoalition.org](mailto:emily@sloclimatecoalition.org)