San Leandro Unified School District

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Mr. Murray Wilson
Department of Planning and Building
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project

Dear Planning Commissioners,

The San Leandro Unified School District Board would like to state our concerns regarding the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. The Board is particularly concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic generated by this project through many densely populated areas, including San Leandro, and the risk it poses to our schools along the rail route.

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the entire Bay Area, not to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. Additionally, more than ten schools in the City of San Leandro, and the San Leandro Unified School District Board building, are within the one-mile US Department of Transportation Potential Impact Zone in the case of an oil train derailment or fire.

The RDEIR also did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area, which includes oil transport through San Leandro from Canada to the San Luis Obispo County facility. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, especially in the very young. There is already a high incidence of childhood asthma in San Leandro - asthma hospitalization rate in Alameda County has twice the state average and is the third-highest in California. Therefore, this project would directly compromise the health and safety our school communities along the rail route in San Leandro.

On February 10, 2015, the San Leandro Unified School District Board voted to respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,

Mike McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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