

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Betsy Shotwell

SUBJECT: PHILLIPS 66 OIL TRAIN
PROPOSAL

DATE: January 23, 2015

Approved

D. D. SyL

Date

1/23/15

INFORMATION

At the January 13 City Council meeting, discussion concerning the Phillips 66 Oil Train Proposal (agenda item 7.1), it was requested that any related correspondence received from our Congressional Delegation be shared with Council. To date, staff is in receipt of the attached letter from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo which indicates her concerns for the project currently before the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission. Staff will forward any additional correspondence on this matter from our Delegation upon receipt.

/s/

BETSY SHOTWELL
Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Attachment

For more information contact Betsy Shotwell, Director of Intergovernmental Relations at (408)535-8270.





*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo
Eighteenth District
California*

January 15, 2015

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Councilmember, District 2
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, California 95113-1905

Dear Ash,

Thank you for requesting my views on the Phillips 66 oil train proposal currently pending before San Luis Obispo County and for your work on this issue.

As you know, Phillips 66 has proposed to expand its existing refinery in Santa Maria to allow it to receive crude oil by rail from Canadian tar sands. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the project indicates that the oil would be transported on the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) mainline which runs directly through San Jose. The project will result in as many as five oil trains per week traveling on the UPRR mainline, with each train over a mile long and carrying approximately 2.2 million gallons of tar sands oil.

I'm very concerned about the risks that this project poses to San Jose and other communities along the UPRR mainline, and I support your efforts to oppose the project before the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission. Tar sands oil produces up to 40 percent more carbon pollution than conventional oil on a life-cycle basis and is much harder to clean up in the event of a spill because it sinks in water. The RDEIR found that an oil spill or explosion would cause "significant and unavoidable" impacts to agricultural, biological, and water resources along the UPRR mainline, with particular risks for heavily populated areas such as San Jose. The RDEIR also concludes that the trains will cause "significant and unavoidable" emissions of toxic air pollution, with the most severe impacts in densely populated areas along the UPRR route. These facts cannot be ignored.

This project poses unacceptable hazards for residents of San Jose and elsewhere along the UPRR mainline. The residents of San Jose must have their interests represented in the consideration of this project. I salute you for your critical work on this, and

should you have any questions, you can contact Paul Beck in my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-8104.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs. Eshoo". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress