



City of San Leandro

Meeting Date: March 2, 2015

Oral/Discussion Item

File Number: 15-127

Agenda Section: ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Number: 10.B.

TO: City Council

FROM: Chris Zapata
City Manager

BY: City Council

FINANCE REVIEW: Not Applicable

TITLE: City Council Request to Consider Opposing Rail Transport of Crude Oil
Through San Leandro

By consensus at a previous meeting, the City Council agreed to schedule consideration of opposing rail transport of crude oil through San Leandro.

ATTACHMENTS

- New article regarding train derailment
- Letter from Mayor Cutter opposing Philips 66 Rail Spur Project
- Sample resolution regarding oil train off-loading facility

WEST VIRGINIA

Train derails, sending oil into river and sparking fire

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

A train carrying crude oil derailed and caught fire Monday in West Virginia, less than two weeks after the U.S. Department of Transportation sent a package of new rail safety regulations to the White House for review.

The CSX train was traveling on the same route as another crude oil train that derailed and caught fire 10 months ago in downtown Lynchburg, Va. It was the second derailment in as many days of a train loaded with crude oil. Early Sunday, a Canadian National train loaded with crude oil derailed in northern Ontario. At least seven cars burst into flames.

In Monday's derailment, residents of two small towns east of Charleston were evacuated, and at least one tank car fell into the Kanawha River, according to the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. The river supplies drinking water for several local communities.

The blaze, which also sparked a house fire, was expected to burn throughout the night.

A spokesman for the department said the 109-car train was traveling from North Dakota to Yorktown, Va., and that 12 to 15 cars had derailed. Trains from North Dakota's Bakken region travel to the Yorktown facility, where the oil is transferred to barges for delivery to refineries on the East Coast.

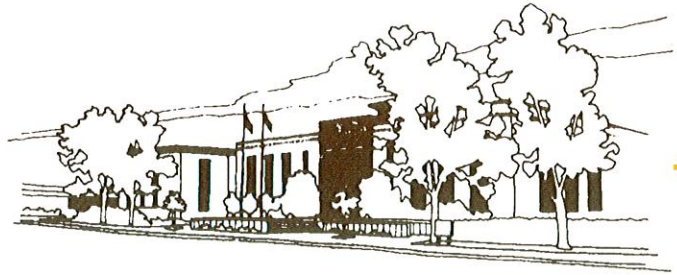
Photos taken by residents posted to Twitter showed a column of black

smoke and fire. Other fiery accidents have taken place in Casselton, N.D., Aliceville, Ala., and Lac-Megantic, Quebec. The latter derailment, in 2013, killed 47 people and

wiped out the town's business district.

The response to Monday's derailment was complicated by a winter storm, with up to 10 inches of snow in the area.

City of San Leandro
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San Leandro, California 94577



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February 12, 2015

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:

As Mayor of the City of San Leandro I would like to express my concerns regarding the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. In particular, the City is concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic through many densely populated areas, including San Leandro, and the risk it poses to our city, which is bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks (UPRR).

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. An incident involving an oil unit train from this project could result in the closure of multiple crossings at the same time, affecting both emergency response and traffic. Homes, schools, parks, and businesses are located adjacent to the Union Pacific tracks which traverse San Leandro 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 acceptable thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease. Therefore, this project would directly compromise the health and safety of our communities along the rail route in San Leandro.

I respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,

Pauline Russo Cutter
Mayor, City of San Leandro



**RESOLUTION RE. THE PHILLIPS 66 OIL TRAIN OFF-LOADING FACILITY
EXPANSION IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

WHEREAS the oil train off-loading facility expansion, being considered by San Luis Obispo County, would increase rail traffic through densely populated areas of Alameda County, including high risk of oil spills, fire and explosion to residences, businesses, and at least 20 schools located in the "blast zone" along the projected route; and

WHEREAS our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the Bay Area and NOT to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil through populated areas; and

WHEREAS, the diesel emissions from trains along the route would generate toxic pollutants that exceed medically advised thresholds and cause cancer, heart disease and asthma, in an area that is the third highest for childhood asthma disorders in the state of California;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Central Committee of Alameda County requests that the County Board of Supervisors of San Luis Obispo County deny permits for the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility and the denial of any construction related to this project.