



## CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

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San Luis Obispo County

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March 1, 2017

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Supervisor John Peschong, Chair  
County Government Center, Room D-430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**RE: Phillips 66 "Santa Maria" Refinery Rail Spur Project - Rail Safety**

Dear Supervisor Peschong:

At the request of local residents, the City of Paso Robles City Council considered the status of the Phillips 66 Rail Spur project proposed in San Luis Obispo County, near Oceano, on October 18, 2016. The City received considerable public input from concerned citizens at that meeting. The City Council unanimously indicated they have safety concerns regarding the potential for a low-risk, but high-consequence, incident to occur as a result of increasing the number, frequency and length of railcars carrying crude oil in San Luis Obispo County. Therefore, the City Council voted to formally express their concern regarding this matter to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors.

The City Council is aware that the rail spur project and environmental impact report (EIR) was denied by the County Planning Commission, and that it has been appealed by the applicant, (Union Pacific Railroad), to the County Board of Supervisors. The Council understands that regulation of interstate rail commerce is largely pre-empted by federal law, and that the City of Paso Robles does not have regulatory jurisdiction over the proposed expansion project. The Council appreciates the complexity of the issues that the County must consider in evaluating this project. Should the board consider approving this project, the Council requests the board support the draft Conditions of Approval incorporated into the EIR.

The City previously sent correspondence to the County, as well as to state and federal regulators in April 2015, requesting additional safety protection measures to regulate rail cars and to improve emergency response capabilities be considered, should an oil train derailment incident occur in our County. This correspondence was sent in collaboration with the California League of Cities. Since that time, the City of Paso Robles, in coordination with regional emergency response partners, has been preparing to initiate additional oil-train-specific response training.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me or Paso Robles City Manager, Tom Frutchey, at (805) 237-3888 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve W. Martin".

Steve W. Martin  
Mayor

cc: City of Paso Robles:

Tom Frutchey, City Manager  
Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager  
Ken Johnson, Emergency Services Chief  
Robert Burton, Police Chief  
Warren Frace, Community Development Director  
Paso Robles City Council