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CHAPTER



# ***FAQs on the Phillips 66 Oil Train Project***

## **1..What is the Phillips 66 oil train project?**

- Phillips 66 wants to bring mile-long dangerous oil trains through SLO County to its refinery on the Nipomo Mesa. Phillips 66 calls it the Rail Spur Extension Project.
- Phillip 66 needs a permit from SLO County to build a rail yard at the refinery.
- If they don't get the permit, the oil trains will not come through.

## **2. How will the Phillips 66 oil train project impact the health and safety of our communities?**

- The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) lists ELEVEN Class I Impacts for the project. A Class I Impact is the most serious possible impact a project can have. Even ONE Class I Impact is very significant.
  - possible derailment/explosion/fire (four Class I Impacts)
  - increased air pollution (five Class I Impacts)
  - water pollution from a possible oil tanker rupture or oil leak (one Class I Impact)
  - increased demand for fire protection and emergency services (one Class I Impact)

## **3. How often do oil train derailments/explosions/fires occur?**

- The Department of Transportation predicts there will be TEN oil train derailments each year.
- The worst accident so far happened in Quebec two years ago when a train derailment/explosion/fire leveled many blocks of Lac-Megantic's downtown killing 47 people.
- Statistically oil train derailments/explosions/fires happen infrequently, but when they happen they can be very serious.

## **4. What does the term "blast zone" mean?**

- The blast zone is the 2-mile wide corridor along an oil train route corresponding to the Department of Transportation's area of evacuation/concern in case of an oil train derailment/fire.
- If you are a mile or less from the tracks, you are in the blast zone.
- 30% of SLO county residents live in the blast zone: Santa Margarita 100%, Oceano 88%, Grover Beach 76%, San Luis Obispo 72%, Templeton 63%, Atascadero 52%, Paso Robles 45%, Pismo Beach 37%.

## **5. Which K-12 schools are in the blast zone?**

- **Atascadero:** San Benito Elementary, Santa Margarita Elementary, Atascadero Junior High, Fine Arts Academy, Del Rio Continuation High and West Mall Alternative School.
- **Lucia Mar:** Fairgrove, Grover Beach, Grover Heights and Oceano Elementary; Mesa and Judkins Middle; Lopez Continuation High
- **Paso Robles:** Bauer/Speck, Georgia Brown, Kermit King and Pat Butler Elementary; George H. Flamson Middle.

- **San Luis Coastal:** Hawthorne, Los Ranchos, Sinsheimer and Teach Elementary; San Luis Obispo High
- **San Miguel:** Lillian Larsen Elementary, Almond Acres Charter Academy
- **Templeton:** Templeton Elementary, Templeton Middle and Templeton High.

**6. Which colleges are in the blast zone?** The entire Cal Poly campus, stadium and housing, as well as the Paso Robles campus of Cuesta.

**7. Which hospitals are in the blast zone?** Sierra Vista and French. Sierra Vista is the area's trauma center.

### **8. Who is in favor of the Phillips 66 oil train project?**

- Very few people or organizations besides some of Phillips 66's staff and suppliers, and Union Pacific Railroad.
- The chambers of commerce of Arroyo Grande-Grover Beach and Nipomo.
- The Cuesta College superintendent.

### **9. Who opposes the Phillips 66 oil train project?**

- Nurses. Teachers. Firefighters.
- More than thirty California city councils, counties and school boards along the rail corridor.
- State Senators Bill Monning (SLO), Fran Pavley (Calabasas), and Hannah–Beth Jackson (Santa Barbara).
- Many community organizations, environmental groups and individuals.

**10. Will the Phillips facility close if the oil train project is turned down?** Unlikely.

- Unlikely because the SLOC facility is just one part of Phillip 66's San Francisco refinery; the other half is in the Bay Area. The crude oil is partially processed in the SLOC facility, then sent by pipeline to the Bay Area facility for final processing. You can't close half of a refinery complex; it's either both or neither.
- Unlikely because the Phillips 66 San Francisco refinery complex (including SLOC) is highly profitable.
- Unlikely because Phillips 66 just applied for and received a permit to increase production at the SLOC facility (unrelated to whether or not the oil train project approved).

### **11. What about the San Ardo oil trains?**

- Trains carrying crude oil from San Ardo have been going through the county two or three times a week for more than a decade. Luckily so far there has not been an oil train derailment/fire/explosion.
- Adding the five Phillips 66 oil trains each week will TRIPLE the risk of oil train derailment/explosion/fire to our communities.
- There have been many train derailments in California, just not an oil train derailment—yet.

**Get involved.** Write a letter to the SLOC Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors opposing the Phillips 66 oil train project. Help us inform our neighbors about the dangerous oil trains. Arrange a speaker for your organization. Help us hand out educational materials and gather petition signatures.

**For more info,** email [stopoiltrains@gmail.com](mailto:stopoiltrains@gmail.com), call (805) 316-0033. Website: ProtectSLO.org

*We are residents of San Luis Obispo County who want to stop the Phillips 66 oil trains from endangering our health, safety and property. Also involved are California Nurses Association, Center for Biological Diversity, ForestEthics, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Empower Poly Coalition (Cal Poly Student Coalition), and many other organizations. 7-23-15rev.*



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