



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

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**Officers 2014-2015
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**Board of Directors
2014-2015**

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Community Director

John Kuchta



Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

**June 2, 2015
VIA EMAIL**

TO: The Honorable Mike Bonin, Councilmember, 11th District of City of Los Angeles mike.bonin@lacity.org
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember, 5th District of City of Los Angeles paul.koretz@lacity.org
The Honorable Filipe Fuentes, Councilmember, 7th District of City of Los Angeles councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, 3rd District of City of Los Angeles councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org
The Honorable Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, 4th District of City of Los Angeles councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org
The Honorable Jose Huizar, Councilmember, 14th District of City of Los Angeles councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

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**Re: Resolution opposing Phillips 66 Santa Maria
Refinery crude by rail operation**

At its May 12, 2015 meeting, the Mar Vista Community Council unanimously passed the following policy motion:

The proposed Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility in San Luis Obispo County would bring nearly 3 million gallons of toxic crude oil per day into California. These mile-and-a-half long oil trains carry oil in unsafe tank cars through communities and over precious watersheds.

WHEREAS, the US and Canadian rail companies are common carriers, meaning they are required to carry whatever product shippers wish to put on the rail lines resulting in a 4,000% increase in crude by rail being carried on the rail lines in the past 3 years,

WHEREAS, this increase in Crude By Rail transportation has resulted in several disasters in the US and Canada (Lac Megantic, Quebec, Casselton, North Dakota, Hammond, Indiana, Aliceville, Alabama, Lynchburg, Virginia as well as four in the last weeks) which have resulted in the loss of human life and billions of dollars of damages to communities and their surrounding environment,

WHEREAS, the people of Los Angeles are concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic through many densely populated areas and the risk it poses to our city of almost four million people due to the Phillips 66 oil train off-loading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County,

WHEREAS, the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) concludes that the proposed Phillips 66 rail spur would cause significant and unavoidable rail accident hazard risks along the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas,

WHEREAS, the transport of crude oil by 100-car 1.4-mile long unit trains to the Santa Maria Refinery would occur on the Union Pacific railroad tracks through the City of Los Angeles from the Port of LA or Colton toward San Luis Obispo County, creating even more diesel pollution in already disproportionately impacted communities,

WHEREAS, our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout Southern California, not to move large

quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil,

WHEREAS, an analysis of potential blast zone radii of rail lines carrying toxic and volatile crude from the San Fernando Valley all the way through South LA and the Harbor Area would impact homes, schools, parks, and businesses located adjacent to the tracks,

WHEREAS, the same blast zone map indicates the risk to a significant stretch of the Los Angeles River destined to receive \$1 billion in local, state and federal investment over several years to overhaul much of an 11-mile soft-bottomed stretch of the river between Griffith Park and downtown,

WHEREAS, previous rail car derailment explosions in North America have demonstrated most emergency responders, including those in the City of Los Angeles, do not have sufficient equipment and supplies, such as fire suppression foam, to adequately respond to a catastrophic explosion of a rail car derailment explosion,

WHEREAS, the RDEIR does not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the Los Angeles region,

WHEREAS, the Mar Vista Community Council sees impacts to our local and regional community from trans-shipment of tar sands crude through our communities as vital to our interests, taxing emergency responders and harming regional air, land and water quality resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mar Vista Community Council asserts the only San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission action that would avoid this public safety risk to Los Angeles County and beyond is denial of the project,

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Mar Vista Community Council requests the City of Los Angeles City Council write a letter of opposition to the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission to deny this project a permit until such time as it can be proven to be safe.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Koontz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and the last name "Koontz" clearly distinguishable.

Bill Koontz, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council