



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 10.4

Meeting Date: September 17, 2015

Subject: Approval of Board Letter to San Luis Obispo County Stating Oil Train Traffic Concerns

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Board of Education

Recommendation: Recommend approval of items submitted.

Background/Rationale: The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission will soon hear a permit request for a project that, if approved, would result in an increase in train transport of crude oil to San Luis Obispo County. This project, the Phillips 66 rail spur extension and crude unloading project, would allow the transport of crude oil by rail, involving as many as five trains per week with up to 80 tank cars, each carrying 26,000-28,000 gallons of crude oil (2.2 million gallons total). The trains would travel on the Union Pacific rail line, which passes directly through the heart of Sacramento. A rail accident involving oil spills, fire, or explosion could have disastrous life safety, health, environmental and economic consequences for Sacramento. School sites are not prepared for the scale of disaster represented by a major oil-train derailment, and current oil-by-rail safety standards have not kept pace with increased oil-train traffic. The San Luis Obispo County EIR concludes that the rail spur extension project would cause a significant and unavoidable rail accident hazard risk. Additionally, mitigation by use of safest tank cars and positive train control is likely preempted by federal law. Approval of the letter would align SCUSD with San Jose, Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Berkeley Unified School Districts, Peralta Community College, and the LA City Council, who have written letters of concern, or resolutions regarding the danger of the trains in regards to the safety of school children. SCUSD is a district that undertakes proactive action for the health and safety of our students. This board letter supports this approach.

The EIR may be found here:

www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/EnvironmentalNotices/Phillips_66_Company_Rail_Spur_Extension_Project.htm

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Safe, Clean and Healthy Schools

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary
2. Letter to San Luis Obispo County

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 Minutes

Submitted by: Ellen Cochrane, Board Trustee, Area 2

Approved by: Darrel Woo, Board President

Board of Education Executive Summary

Dept: Board of Education

Approval of Board Letter to San Luis Obispo County Stating Oil Train Traffic Concerns

September 17, 2015



I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY: Phillips 66 Company (Phillips 66) proposes to modify its existing Santa Maria Refinery. The refinery's request for a permit would allow them to receive up to 5 oil trains a week carry crude oil and potentially Bakken Shale. These trains would come right through Sacramento. SCUSD Board has reason to be concerned: 17 schools with 13,000 students are located along the 1-mile blast zone. If approved, SCUSD would join a prestigious group including the San Jose, Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Berkeley Unified School Districts, Peralta Community College, and the LA City Council who have written letters of concern, or resolutions about the proposal.

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE:

BP 0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan

BP 3514 – Environmental Safety

BP 3516 – Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan

BP 5142 – Safety

III. BUDGET: None

IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MEASURES: This is a letter of concern from SCUSD regarding the Phillips 66 proposal. Seventeen Sacramento City Unified School District schools with 13,000 students are located along the 1-mile blast zone of a potential oil train derailment and or explosion. The letter will bring attention to this potentially dangerous situation.

V. MAJOR INITIATIVES: None

VI. RESULTS: Express concern to the county of San Luis Obispo, as it works through its analysis and review of the Phillips 66 project. Approval of the letter would align SCUSD with San Jose, Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Berkeley Unified School Districts, Peralta Community College, and the LA City Council, who have written letters of concern, or resolutions regarding the danger of the trains in regards to the safety of school children.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED / NEXT STEPS: To be determined.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

5735 47th Avenue • Sacramento, CA 95824

(916) 643-9000 • FAX (916) 399-2058

José L. Banda, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Darrel Woo
President
Trustee Area 6

Christina Pritchett
Vice President
Trustee Area 3

Jay Hansen
2nd Vice President
Trustee Area 1

Ellen Cochrane
Trustee Area 2

Gustavo Arroyo
Trustee Area 4

Diana Rodriguez
Trustee Area 5

Jessie Ryan
Trustee Area 7

Elizabeth Barry
Student Board Member

Ryan Hostetter
Department of Planning and Building
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The Sacramento Unified School District School Board would like to state our concerns regarding the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. Our District is located in Sacramento County with two different railroad transport routes which are in proximity to 13,000 Sacramento Unified School District students, their parents and our staff. The Board is particularly concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic generated by this project through our district.

We believe there is risk to the schools along the rail route. Seventeen of our schools are in the "blast-zone" - the area designated as a potential impact and evacuation zone by the Department of Transportation.

The Board has been informed 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. Should the Phillips 66 permit be granted then Sacramento Unified would be forced to expend valuable time and scarce resources preparing the potential impact of a derailment, fire and possible explosion. Additionally, no matter how well prepared we are, an accident or spill near SCUSD campuses would be devastating to the students and staff.

Our current rail system, through a high population density urban school district, is not designed to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. Additionally, the RDEIR did not evaluate the air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area which include oil transport through our district. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, especially in the very young. There is already a high incidence of childhood asthma and allergies in our area, and the additional pollutants from this project would directly compromise the health and safety of our school communities along the rail route.

On September 17, 2015, the Sacramento Unified School District Board of Education voted to respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,

Darrel Woo
President
Board of Trustees
Sacramento City Unified School District