RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PHILLIPS 66 COMPANY RAIL SPUR EXTENSION PROJECT

WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors is the official voice of Cal Poly students, and,

WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors expresses concern on behalf of the students and acts as the representative body within the California State University system to the San Luis Obispo community as a whole, and,

WHEREAS: The proposed Phillips 66 rail spur project permit is discretionary and input from the community is taken into account when the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors deliberate on this type of project, and,

WHEREAS: The proposed Phillips 66 rail spur project will allow the construction of a rail spur at the Phillips 66 Nipomo Mesa facility that will allow trains to exit the main rail line and unload one train per day, and,

WHEREAS: The proposed Phillips 66 rail spur project will allow the transit of five new oil trains per week to travel to the Phillips 66 Nipomo Mesa facility to process crude oil from North Dakota and Alberta, Canada, and,

WHEREAS: The proposed project uses a source of cheap crude oil that releases more greenhouse gasses when refined and is more volatile and dangerous to transport than conventional crude oil, and,

WHEREAS: The rail line that passes through the Cal Poly campus and within 500 feet of classrooms will be utilized by this project, and,

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) evacuation zone in an oil train derailment is one-half mile and the potential impact zone encompasses campus, while 95,000 residents of San Luis Obispo County live in this potential impact zone, and,

WHEREAS: The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) identifies 11 Class 1 impacts along the train route. Class 1 impacts are those that are significant, adverse and unavoidable, that cannot be mitigated below significant levels, and,

WHEREAS: The increase in train transit will raise the level of air pollution and particulate matter beyond San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District air quality standards, and,

WHEREAS: The direct impacts to Cal Poly students of decreased air quality include numerous health risks, and,

WHEREAS: Other risks identified by local agencies and the City of San Luis Obispo include hazards associated with possible train derailment such as fires and explosions, posing an unnecessary risk to student’s health and safety, and,
WHEREAS: The impacts of the project will extend through populated areas from Alberta, Canada through the states of Oregon, Washington, California, including our community, and,

WHEREAS: The proposal has already been officially opposed by the city of San Luis Obispo, as well as by 30 California cities, counties and school districts along the rail line, whom we support in their efforts to protect the welfare of all university, city, county and state residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board of Director opposes the Phillips 66 company rail spur extension project due to the negative effects on student health and safety, and encourages the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission to reject this proposal.

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED: This resolution will be sent to President Armstrong, Vice President of Student Affairs Keith Humphrey, ASI Executive Director Marcy Maloney, the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission, and the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this _____ day of __________, 2016.

Attest: 
ASI Secretary

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this _____ day of __________, 2016.

Signed: 
ASI Chair of the Board

Signed: 
ASI President

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Citations


