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# Phillips 66 project opposed before, during Pismo Beach council meeting



*Oil train opponents chant slogans in front of Pismo Beach City Hall on Tuesday before making a presentation at the Pismo Beach City Council meeting.*

Len Wood, Staff

Individuals in south San Luis Obispo County once again voiced strong opposition to Phillips 66 Co.'s proposed rail refinery project that, if approved, would bring a couple hundred trains filled with crude oil through the area every year.

Standing outside City Hall in Pismo Beach, prior to the start of Tuesday's City Council meeting, numerous concerned citizens, from residents and teachers to nurses and environmentalists, protested the controversial rail spur proposal. As the meeting got underway, the group spilled into council chambers, where they made the last of three presentations to local government officials in the Five Cities.

Presentations to the Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach city councils were made last month.

Opponents cite concerns over public health, as well as a fear of a fiery derailment, if the county grants the necessary permits for the proposal to move forward.

"This project presents significant and unacceptable risks to the health and safety of our communities throughout California and beyond, due to toxic emissions, and the potential for oil spills," said Amber Wiehl, Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center nurse.

Phillips 66 is proposing to extend its existing single rail spur 1.3 miles, expand it to three lines and construct a crude

oil tank car unloading facility and related pipelines, plus an emergency access road, at its Nipomo Mesa refinery. The Pismo council couldn't take action on the presentation because the item wasn't scheduled on its agenda. The county Planning Commission is expected to hold a public hearing on the project sometime this summer.

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