

**SOUTH COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2014 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Dick Wright. Gary Spelbring led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Elaine Thomas called the roll with the following members present:

El-Jay Hansson	Istar Holliday
Vince McCarthy	Gary Spelbring
Elaine Thomas	Dan Woodson
Harry Walls	Richard Wright
Vern Dahl, LMUSD	Dan Gaddis, NCSD

The following members were absent:

Sandra Caughell	Susan Cholakian
Rick Dean	Bill Dorland
Pat Duron	

A quorum was declared.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Chairman Dick Wright requested that one person representing the Mesa Refinery Watch Steering Committee be allowed extra time to present the group's position following the presentation by Phillips 66. Dan Woodson so moved, seconded by Gary Spelbring. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes for the January 27, 2014 meeting: Istar Holliday moved. Seconded by El-Jay Hansson that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dick Wright reported the following:

Grant \$940.00	Dump Fees	\$895.76
Library \$952.42	Total	\$2788.19

Correspondence:

Chairman Dick Wright said that an email had been received from Cal and Joanne Gillies indicating that they were out of state but wished to voice their concern over the proposed Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project. Also received was an updated bulletin from the Phillips 66 Rail Spur project.

Chairman Dick Wright said an e-mail vote of the Council had been taken requesting approval for the letter to be sent to Greenhouse Growers Association requesting their support to have their member, Viva Farms, comply with the CCGGA's "Good Neighbor Policy" regarding the truck traffic servicing their facility. The email vote approved the letter being sent.

Comments from the Chair: Chairman Dick Wright announced the up-coming election for SCAC and urged members of the community to be a part of the SCAC and offer their services to our community. Those running for office will be able to present their qualifications with a 3 minute presentation at a Town Hall Meeting on March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the NCSD building. The election will be held on March 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. New Council members will be seated at the March 24, 2014 meeting.

Community Presentations:

SLO County District 4 Supervisor Caren Ray stated that a meeting had taken place the previous week with Camino Caballo residents, the Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association, Viva Farms and SLO County Staff in reference to the alleged violation by Viva Farms of County ordinances. She indicated that the staff is investigating this on-going problem for the residents of the Viva Farms and Camino Caballo areas. She is cognizant of the problem and assured residents that it is being reconsidered by County staff.

Supervisor Ray said over 800 comments have been received in reference to the Phillips 66 proposed rail spur. Even though the comment period for the DEIR is closed the comments from the community can still be submitted concerning the project. The Planning Commission is reviewing the comments and hopes to be able to finish by April. Further questions and comments can be directed to SLO County Planning at SLOPlanning.org or to Supervisor Ray. The Planning Commission had tentatively schedule the hearing for this project on April 24, however this hearing may be held at a later date.

Cal-Fire Battalion - Chief Paul Van Gerwen reported:

Nipomo Station 20 - January, 2014

4 Fires: 1 Structure Fire
 2 Vegetation
 1 Vehicle

2 Smoke Checks

9 False Alarms

60 EMS Calls

12 Vehicle Accidents

7 Public Service Assists

2 Misc. Emergencies

Mesa Station 22

7 Fires: 3 Structure Fires
 2 Vegetation
 1 Debris Fire

6 Smoke Checks

6 False Alarms

42 EMS Calls

10 Vehicle Accidents

10 Public Assists

4 Misc. Emergencies

4 Dune responses

Chief Van Gerwen then introduced SLO County Fire Chief Robert Lewin who was present for the discussion of the Phillips 66 proposed rail spur.

Chief Lewin spoke of the severity of the drought and the resulting fire danger. He indicated that burn permits are required. There will be government funds available to combat the effects of the drought. He also said there is a high deployment for medical emergencies in the Nipomo area.

The DEIR for the Phillips 66 rail spur study shows a number of required mitigations. The type of railcars transporting crude is not only a local issue, but also statewide and national. The Fire Department is prepared for fires at the Phillips 66 refinery as much as possible. There are two more fire stations for the Nipomo area in the long range plan. Mesa Station 22 has a 4 wheel drive vehicle that is capable of navigating in the dunes through the Phillip 66 property. The station coordinates emergency responses in the dunes with Oceano area fire resources

SLO County Sheriff's Office - Commander Jay Donovan reported that there had been an increase of equipment thefts recently. Some of the machines that have been stolen from construction sites and other facilities have high monetary value. He urged residents to call if any suspicious persons or vehicles are observed.

Commander Donovan said it is important to register your land line phone and your cell phone in order for the dispatcher to know your location for "reverse 911" calls. Reverse 911 calls alert residents of an area when a hazardous situation or need for an evacuation is imminent. . If your land line is any other than conventional land line service, it should be registered. All cell phones and non-traditional communication devices should also be register. Registration can take place by going to website: www.slosheriff.org

Commander Donovan also asked residents to call the Sheriff's office with any graffiti that is observed even if it is not in our area. There has been new graffiti observed at the new Willow Interchange.

California Highway Patrol: Patrol Officer Laura Browning said Captain Olson is attending the memorial service in Fresno for the two Highway Patrol Officers who were recently killed.

She said the Highway Patrol is aware of the traffic congestion on Saturday and Sundays caused by the Swap Meet and are trying to alleviate the problem.

She said there have been a large number of trailer thefts. In some cases the trailers have been broken in to and in other cases the trailer has been hitched to another vehicle and pulled away.

SLO County Planning Staff: Brian Pedrotti not present

Nipomo Community Services District -Director Dan Gaddis reported:

Projects in Construction: The Southland Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase 1 Improvements Project is still on schedule to be completed July 5, 2014. Total work completed to date is 86%. Total time elapsed to date is 78%.

The Supplemental Water Pipeline Phase 1 Bid Package 4 - Joshua Rd. Pump Station Project is comprised of 1,930 linear feet of 24 inch diameter waterline a 400 gpm pump station and a pressure reducing station. Work is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed by May 22, 2015.

The Black Lake Well #4 Pump Replacement project involves replacement of the existing well pump, motor, column pipe and discharge piping assembly. Pump pre-commissioning activities are in progress and completion is scheduled for March 2014.

Lucia Mar United School District -Board Member Vern Dahl reported that the teacher's union has settled their contract. He said he has invited LMUSD Superintendent Hogeboom to attend the March meeting of the SCAC and give a report on the district schools. Mr. Dahl introduced Principal Dan Neff of New Tech High School

Principal Neff reported that New Tech High School in its second year and has approximately 200 students. The concept of New Tech is a small student body, not to exceed 500 in order for the faculty and students to know each other well. New Tech is a national network and a number of this type of school is operating in California. The concept is project oriented learning in which students work in learning teams groups. They are assigned letter grades based upon student evaluation in reference to oral presentations including eye contact during presentation, vocabulary, body language and gestures.

Each student must have a laptop computer either supplied by themselves or the school.

Mr. Neff invited the public to a presentation on February 25, 2014 at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the campus of New Tech High School. The students are presenting a study on World War I and the school has been turned into a museum for the evening.

Nipomo Chamber of Commerce - President Richard Malvarose - not present

Public Comment

Mike Berry, resident of the Camino Caballo area spoke in reference to the excessive truck traffic into and out of Viva Farms. He said he is not against the greenhouse business, but the distribution center that is the cause of the traffic should be moved to another location. He was gratified that Supervisor Caren Ray is working to alleviate the problem. He said the traffic does not follow the guidelines of the Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association.

New Business

Mr. Jim Anderson, Phillips 66 Maintenance Supervisor gave a report on the proposed rail spur in order to carry crude oil into the refinery. The refinery presently receives the crude oil from a pipeline; however the locations that feed into the pipeline are becoming depleted. Mr. Anderson pointed out that the DEIR is incomplete and incorrect in a number of areas and a final EIR will have corrections made to it.

Mr. Anderson said the refinery will not be receiving Bakken crude by unit train since Bakken is mostly from North Dakota and is extremely flammable. However the refinery will receive some Bakken by manifest trains. The refinery is not capable of refining "sweet crude" in large quantities. The trains will be running across a number of states depending on the location of the wells. The rail spur proposal would facilitate the unloading of up to 5 trains of 80 tank cars each week. Mr. Anderson said a marine terminal or a truck terminal is not feasible.

Mr. Anderson discussed several type of pollution:

1. Increased water usage would be minimal with the addition of two restroom at the facility using approximately 250 gals. per day
2. Air pollution during construction of the tracks would be controlled by wetting down the construction area. Pollution caused by the diesel engines would be mitigated on site.
3. Noise pollution would be reduced by parking the engines in the plant at night at the farthest distance from nearby residence since the diesel engines will be kept running.
4. Light pollution will be controlled by hooded lights to project the light downward.

Chairman Dick Wright opened the discussion to the SCAC first and then to the public. A number of questions from the Council were addressed to Mr. Anderson regarding the location of the production fields with some as far away as Canada. There were many questions concerning the safety of transporting large quantities of crude oil and the possibility of explosion and fire in a populated area with concern for the residents near the rail spur and plant. Also noise was an issue with the running of the diesel engines 24 hours per day.

The discussion was then opened to the public and a number of questions concerning the mitigations of pollution (air and noise) to be on the property itself. Some residents did not believe the mitigations were adequate for the surrounding residential areas. The possibility of explosion and fire was an issue. Even though Bakken crude will not be transported, the possibility of explosion and fire was still present though to a lesser degree.

Kevin Beauchamp representing the Mesa Refinery Watch Steering Committee presented a Position Paper for the SCAC - Phillip 66 Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project. Mr. Beauchamp pointed out that an initiative to import crude oil to the Nipomo Mesa by rail from locations throughout North America creates risks that greatly outweigh benefits to the citizens and businesses of the Central Coast region.

Although the Phillips 66 refinery has been operating safely for almost 60 years and is a welcome employer and an integral part of the community, it is believed that the addition of a rail spur and rail cars carrying crude oil presents safety, economic, property and quality of life ramifications for residents.

The Refinery Watch Steering Committee believes the transportation of Bakken crude is too highly flammable to be considered safe in this area. Oil spills along the way would

require swift evacuation of the areas, damage to property and loss of business as well as damage to sensitive habitat. These are all dangers to be considered.

Mr. Beauchamp said that our community is asked to shoulder potentially disastrous consequences and environmental problems that result from our rush to exploit newly accessible oil reserves.

Mr. Beauchamp also said this project would benefit only one industry at the expense of risk to other industries. The DERI, while incomplete and incorrect nevertheless points out too many hazards. He also pointed out the recent accidents that have been caused by the transportation of crude oil. California and other states would be subject to risks as the rail cars will be traveling from long distances.

The National Transportation Department issued a Safety Alert in January 2014 regarding the quality of the tank cars traveling with volatile material and the need for evacuation plans. Cal-Fire Battalion Chief submitted a report from the California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin dated Jan. 22, 2014 showing the risk factors involved in rail cars carrying crude oil.

Chairman Dick Wright again opened the discussion for the SCAC and several additional questions were asked. Following the discussion, the Council voted to table the issue pending the completion of the final EIR. Chairman Dick Wright then thanked Mr. Anderson, Mr. Beauchamp and the public for their information and participation.

Committee Reports:

Election Committee - Susan Cholakian was ill and not able to attend the meeting, however Chairman Dick Wright indicated several applications that have been received to fill vacancies on the SCAC. The Town Hall meeting will be March 3, 2014 and the Election will be held March 17, 2014. Media releases have been made.

Land Use Committee - Istar Holiday said the committee discussed Viva Farms, the DeGroot property and Phillips 66 at their recent meetings.

Traffic and Circulation - Dan Woodson said the Transit Committee is being renewed after being inactive. Mr. Woodson has been appointed to participate on the committee.

PM10 -Patricia Duron -not present

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Next meeting March 24, 2014