



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

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March 28, 2016

Benicia City Council
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

RE: Valero Crude by Rail Project

Honorable Councilmembers:

I write to respectfully express my opposition to Valero Energy Corporation's proposal to build an oil train terminal at their Benicia refinery. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Valero Crude by Rail Project in Benicia concludes that the project would cause a significant and unavoidable rail accident hazard risk. As such, it is your decision that can unequivocally prevent this significant public safety risk.

The EIR identifies that trains accessing the project would traverse Sacramento, including the heavily populated downtown area that I represent. It would cross numerous creeks and rivers, and run immediately adjacent to and through vulnerable residential neighborhoods. A rail accident resulting in oil spills, fire or a toxic explosion could have disastrous life safety, health, environmental and economic consequences. For these reasons, I believe an increase in oil train traffic from this project poses an unacceptable risk to Sacramento County residents and the environment.

In order to protect public safety and the environment, I urge your Council to uphold the Benicia Planning Commission's vote to deny the project. Please contact me or my staff at 916.874.5485 or SupervisorSerna@saccounty.net should you have questions or require further information.

Respectfully,

Phil Serna
Supervisor, District 1