



To: Benicia City Council

April 14, 2016

Thank you for letting me speak in front of the Council on April 6. As I told you I have lived in Benicia since 1993, I taught science in a local High school for 27 years and I now have a small business on First Street.

I diligently attended the meeting of the Planning Commission dealing with Valero's request for a permit to build a railway spur to receive trains that will carry volatile crude oil from the fields in North America, through aging tracks and delicate environments, into the Benicia refinery. I heard an overwhelming outcry in opposition to this dangerous project, not only from the good citizens of Benicia, but from a great number of up-rail communities as well government representatives throughout Northern California.

The Planning Commission did an outstanding job listening to all the evidence presented to them and they unanimously voted to not authorize the EIR and to deny the permit for this project. In their careful comments, before their vote, they each outlined their opposition emphasizing why this project is NOT good for Benicia.

I agree with the unanimous decision of the planning commission and I urge you to not delay in making the decision to deny this permit. You now also have the backing of the Attorney General who said that the Planning Commission and the City Council has every right to deny a land use permit for Valero's proposed Crude by Rail offloading rack.

This project is NOT good for the health and safety of the citizens of Benicia. Fossil fuels are not good for the future of our community and our planet. We must invest in sustainable energy resources, and we are so lucky to live in an area that can provide us with power from the sun, wind and even the water.

As you vote please remember the young people of our community who will have to live with your decision for many years to come. This is a turning point in the future of our planet and you are so lucky to be the leaders who can make a decision that can move us towards a more sustainable future.

Sincerely
Giovanna Sena - Isolari
63 Buena Vista