

## **APPENDIX D**

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# Comment Letters of Project Opposition

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**From:** patty eastman <beniciapatty@icloud.com>  
**To:** "amy.million@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amy.million@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/29/2014 4:53 PM  
**Subject:** No crude oil

I am very concerned that the board is even considering letting Valero import 70,000 barrels of crude oil into our community. Please stand up for the community and residents against big money giant Valero. Risk of environmental pollution, explosions, increase of dangerous rail traffic is not worth the few jobs this may create.

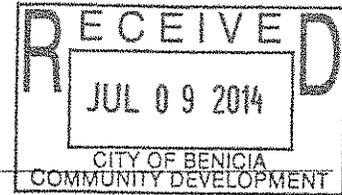
Thank you. Long time Benicia resident.

Sent from my iPad Patty Eastman



**Amy Million - Valero's Crude by Rail project :**

**From:** David Jenkins <norcaltruck@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 7/8/2014 2:24 PM  
**Subject:** Valero's Crude by Rail project :  
**CC:** "bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us" <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>



**NOR CAL TRUCK SALES**  
 200 Industrial way  
 Benicia , CA 94510

**Valero's Crude by Rail Project :**

07/07/2014

Dear Amy and Brad :

I am a local business man in the Benicia Industrial Park with property ownership in the park . I am seriously opposed to this project for a multitude of reasons , breathing air quality , hazardous waste control , environmental destruction should one of these cars rupture or derail ,traffic congestion at or near the freeway off ramp and certainly not least for me the movement and storage of the flammable , combustibile ,stinky transport tankers that will be used to transport the crude along sidings that I work next to all day every day here in Benicia . NTSB and the DOT recommendations of caution about the use of these tankers in and around populated areas should not be discounted.

Valero, paints a picture of community involvement, increase in tax revenue and new job formation . Maybe that is true, however could any of that be worth the sacrifice of life, air quality, traffic or an environmental catastrophe? If you look at the records about train derailment across our country in the last year a reasonable person might ask why we allow rail traffic at all. The railroad derailments have devastated cities, small communities and taken human life. Can we allow such a possible thing to happen here in our very special community?

I have tried to read the entire EIR report with its many nuances about the destruction and air quality depletion that will be forthcoming if this project is allowed. I am a reasonable man with many years of business experience and life behind me; I fully understand the dangers of treading on others life for the sake of money. It is my considered opinion that it never pays and that the fall out of bad judgment rests with you or in this case the community for many years to come.

There have been many people from here in Benicia including myself who are opposed to this project , surely as the officials of our community ,granted the right to protect us from such travesties that you will unconditionally deny the transport and increase of potential risk ask for from Valero with this rail project .

I have watched and listened to the public relations propaganda that the railroad and Valero have tried to communicate, the truth is they really don't care about the citizens , they care about their

stockholders ! I am not putting any of the individuals that work there at fault, it's just the nature of big business, power ,money and greed are the roots .

Benicia City Council has the ability and the right and the duty to protect its community, please stand up and deny this project from advancing any further!

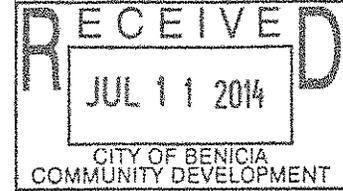
Sincerely

David Jenkins

Local business owner and citizen of Benicia .

**Amy Million - meeting tonight EIR Valero**

**From:** "Pamela Peck" <pampeck123@comcast.net>  
**To:** <Amy.Million@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 7/10/2014 4:11 PM  
**Subject:** meeting tonight EIR Valero  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg



Dear Ms Million,

I am forwarding this email on to you because it outlines some of my concerns about the crude by rail issues that we all are currently facing.

I teach a class tonight and cannot be at the hearing.

I am a resident of Rodeo, but your Planning Commission decision tonight will have far-reaching consequences for the entire Bay Area and beyond.

Please do not approve this project.

Thank You,  
 Pam

Pamela Peck  
 37 First Street  
 Rodeo, CA 94572  
[pampeck123@comcast.net](mailto:pampeck123@comcast.net)  
 h: 510 799-3165  
 c: 510 691-6453

**From:** Pamela Peck [mailto:pampeck123@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2014 3:30 PM  
**To:** 'Judy Spencer'; '\$ALL'  
**Subject:** RE: SP DIRECT - July 9, 2014

Dear Dr Laguerre,

I am writing in response to your statement below, which I have highlighted, regarding the Valero Refinery project EIR. It is alarming that you, as the spokesperson for SCC, are publicly stating support for this project when the growing consensus of many citizens in the Bay Area is in strong opposition to this and other harmful projects currently being proposed by Bay Area refineries.

If current project proposals by Valero, Phillips 66 in Rodeo/Santa Maria and Chevron are approved, they will all start importing and refining Bakken crude and/or very dirty tar sands from Canada. It will only create environmental harm not good. All of the refineries are proposing to increase the transportation of this crude to their refineries, although Phillips 66 in Rodeo continues to deny it as part of their current plan. As you may be aware, there has been a dramatic increase in train traffic and derailments of trains carrying highly flammable Bakken crude, which has devastated communities across the US and Canada.

If these projects go forward, the same trains will be crossing many of our most precious waterways. I recently attended a meeting in Dunsmuir, CA, which is located on the banks of the Upper Sacramento River. This meeting was about railroad safety, spill prevention and response. Union Pacific tracks run right next to the Upper Sacramento River on the stretch between Lake Shasta and Mt. Shasta City. The Union Pacific spokesperson stated that if the current Bay Area refinery projects are approved, their railroad company will increase its crude train car traffic by 25%. It was obvious by the end of the meeting that adequate spill prevention is not in place. The report on the outcome of the emergency response drill held along the river was frightening. There have been three derailments along the river in the past few month, one dumped a carload of paper into the river.

Any derailment of crude along the Sacramento River, especially its sensitive headwaters, would cause complete devastation to the environment and all who rely on it for clean water. I have been fishing this river since 1972. I witnessed the devastation to the river in 1991 when one tank car of soluble metam sodium spilled into the river at Canterra Loop, a few miles upstream from the town of Dunsmuir. Forty miles of every living thing in the river was killed as the toxic mess lingered in eddies and drifted downstream to Lake Shasta. People living along the river suffered contamination, pets died from the noxious fumes. The entire riparian habitat was effected and the river was closed to fishing for two years. Full recovery for some species is yet to be determined. Imagine ruptured tank cars spilling heavy crude or a series of exploding cars containing Bakken crude torching and contaminating the canyon.

These trains will also be rolling through the centers of all of our cities and towns. After assessing the risk, Berkeley and Richmond City Councils have officially stated their opposition to transporting this crude through their cities.

After reading the EIR for the Phillips 66 project, attend and speaking at public meetings, and following the projects of the other refineries, I believe that, taken collectively, these projects, Valero's included, will increase their profit margins at the expense of the health of our communities and the environment. The refinery reps will always try and make their projects look good at the public meetings, so it takes a great effort from all of us to stay informed and speak out against harmful projects. Current scientific studies have determined that if this crude is extracted, refined, and burned it will only help push our dangerously high CO2 levels over the top.

It is your right to personally support this project, however, as the representative of our school, I do not believe that you can assume that the majority of the campus community would agree with you.

Many college campuses have divested their oil company stocks because of climate change. I hope that you will not continue to use SCC to publically promote Valero's project.

Most Sincerely,

Pam

Pamela Peck, MFA  
Adjunct Faculty, Art  
Solano Community College  
[pamela.peck@solano.edu](mailto:pamela.peck@solano.edu)  
[pampeck123@comcast.net](mailto:pampeck123@comcast.net)

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**From:** Judy Spencer [<mailto:Judy.Spencer@solano.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2014 9:06 AM  
 To: \$ALL  
 Subject: SP DIRECT - July 9, 2014



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT  
 SP DIRECT  
 July 9, 2014**

Dear Colleagues:

**Those Hazy Lazy Crazy Days of Summer**

While the summer has been a bit quieter than usual, much continues to happen at the College.

Summer sessions are in full gear and as V.P. Ligioso reported recently, the numbers for summer school have increased over last year. That is a good sign of the recovery of our enrollment and will enhance our desired budget numbers in the years ahead. We have certainly undertaken a serious and effective effort in outreach to high schools and the community. Our staff and faculty have participated in various events and community activities. This kind of initiative is beginning to work, and will, in the long run, ensure even healthier enrollments.

We continue to explore strategic opportunities not only to grow enrollments, but to provide tailor-made opportunities for individuals in different county areas. For example, we are considering opportunities with Dixon that include the CAP program we presented to the Board, and also potential ESL programs there and elsewhere. We are looking at a couple of innovations with Benicia High School and the city of Benicia (I'll say more about this later). The Superintendent of Winters and I are scheduling a meeting to discuss better outreach and other ongoing activities. Leigh Sata has been working with Suisun City to firm up our presence there. Finally, the Vallejo City Unified School District and SCC have engaged in some substantive conversations as Dr. Ramona Bishop, Superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District, and I are examining long-term work in support of the Vallejo high school academies (see below). These efforts need to be followed up by ongoing communications to prospective students to actually enroll in classes. We are working to refine the enrollment process and to address the technology that we need to enhance our future efforts.

**Working with the Vallejo City Unified School District**

Dr. Ramona Bishop, Superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD), and I had a conference call recently to determine some preliminary steps for a major Solano Community College liaison with the VCUSD. We are looking at an arrangement similar to Dixon that will be tied to the academies of the high schools and are exploring the possibility of a tour of Dixon High School and a similar arrangement in Los Rios. We are inviting our respective Trustees to go on the tour also.

Additionally, Dr. Bishop and several members of her staff met with a group from the College to discuss strengthening the relationship between Solano Community College and VCUSD. We discussed the agreement between SCC and VCUSD that led to a \$6M grant. We intend to finalize the agreement, seek approval for it through the approval process, and publicize it so the community can be aware of the partnerships we are forging and the mutual work we plan to do. Our intention is to use the Vallejo Education and Business Alliance (VEBA) as a vehicle to cement this relationship and to publicize it as well. Finally, we discussed the potential for

the College and VCUSD to have joint facilities at Vallejo High School to make it easier for students to transition from the high school to the College and the potential of bringing the College closer to citizens in the vicinity of Vallejo High School with improved access to public transportation.

### **High School Liaison**

With the many outreach activities happening over the next few years, I feel that there is a need to designate someone as the primary contact for our high schools, to whom they can call when they need something. This person will interact at a different level than our recruiters. He will be more concerned primarily with programming efforts, such as the activities we have in place with Dixon and the Middle College High School. Dr. Jose Ballesteros, who is the Director of MESA, will serve in this role for us at this time. As activities increase and our enrollment and budget picture improves, we will explore the possibility of a full-time person in that role.

### **Commencement Debrief**

The Superintendent-President's Cabinet (SPC) engaged in a debriefing on Commencement. We talked about the effective aspects (and there were many), including Trustees handing out diplomas, faculty helping with the diplomas, the staff who volunteered for the event, and the live broadcast. We were concerned; however, with the chair count, the delay of the color guard, the restroom situation, and what we need to do to improve next year's Commencement. In all, the ceremony lasted longer than we wanted and we noted that several students left early. As the heat required extra hydration, we concluded that many simply had to use the restroom. Next year, we will encourage everyone to visit the restrooms before the ceremony, if at all possible. Overall, we were pleased with the ceremony and thank all who participated. We hope to promote greater participation from our faculty and will work to make it easier for them to participate.

### **Horticulture Club Social**

The Horticulture program held its Spring Social recently. In attendance were Trustees Young, Martin, Chapman, Brown, and Thurston. The event was well attended and showcased the results of the fine work that Professors Ken Williams and Sandy Diehl (Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of 2014) are doing. It is worth stopping over to the Horticulture Building to see what is going on and also to get a glimpse of what we can do to relax--gardening is certainly a wise choice.

### **New Hires**

Though we continue to have several interim positions, we are about to close on several hiring activities. I am optimistic about the number of talented individuals who are joining our College. I look forward to sharing with you the results of those hires at the Flex Cal speech on August 12.

### **Benicia High School Automotive**

Janice Adams, Superintendent of Benicia Unified School District, and I have discussed the potential for SCC to offer College automotive courses at the high school beginning August 20. This project would provide a good opportunity for us to start serving Benicia High School students.

### **Juneteenth Activities**

Shemila Johnson, Trustees Keith, Young, Thurston, as well as Jesse Branch, took part in the Juneteenth activities this past Saturday in Vallejo. Several potential students and parents visited the Solano Community College booth as Juneteenth celebrations usually emphasize education and achievement. The atmosphere was very festive, and it seemed that families and individuals had a great time.

### **Image Campaign Interviews**

A group of faculty, administrators, and classified staff interviewed six companies to come up with three that could be further considered for SCC's campaign to enhance our public image. I am finalizing the process to choose the company that will work with us and a decision will be made toward the middle of July. I want to thank Curt Johnston, Terri Pearson-Bloom, Kathryn Kearns, Rachel Smith; Scott Ota, Rebecca LaCount, Jerry Kea,

Robin Darcangelo, and Shemila Johnson for the efforts they put into the process. Of note was the presence of Allison Clark, a student from Rhunette Alum's class, whose research into the College's public image confirmed we needed the image campaign. She served us well on the committee and offered an important student perspective.

#### **Meeting with Academic Senate President**

Academic Senate President Michael Wyly and I met recently to discuss a variety of issues and set out a plan to encourage us to improve communications and streamline our agenda for the year. High school outreach has become the largest item for many reasons, including the acknowledgement that we must invest in more emphasis on student success that should start with the high schools or with K-12. As we know, lawmakers have already put more emphasis on high school partnerships and have changed funding to allow for more regional activities. Finally, President Wyly and I discussed streamlining some processes, such as faculty involvement in College activities so as not to overtax some faculty members and to encourage more outreach to others who may wish to seek greater involvement.

#### **Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) Program Discussions**

Dr. Maurice McKinnon, Andrea Uhl, and I met with the BRN. Executive Officer Louise Bailey and Consultant Janette Wackerly welcomed us and praised the College's efforts to help international students get their nursing licenses. We discussed the format the College should follow to be in compliance with the Board. I presented a plan, and they gave feedback and then approved it. The program is being run through the United Heart Training Center, but the College needs to exercise greater oversight and ownership of the activities. A revised contract will be presented to the Board in July.

#### **Meeting with Suisun City Manager**

Suzanne Bragdon, City Manager of Suisun City, and members of her staff visited us last week to discuss the Harbor Theatre. The city and the College have long had a relationship involving the facilities. As we look to the future, and with redevelopment moving toward the sale of assets like the Theatre, we are working to maximize the relationship and make it beneficial to the city and the College. We discussed expanding the activities we have at the theatre and diversifying them. We look forward to having some discussions with the Dean and faculty involved in the Harbor Theatre.

#### **Banking and Finance Discussions**

Louise Walker is a proud alumna of Solano Community College. While attending the College, she had an opportunity to intern at a bank. She took courses in banking and today is the President of First Northern in Dixon. She credits SCC for giving her direction in life. She was recognized in May as an outstanding SCC alumna. That day I asked her what was needed to support the banking industry, and she told me that we should meet and discuss it. In the days following the event, she was attending a meeting of CEO bankers in California when someone expressed the concern that the banking industry is failing to prepare the next generation of bankers. Ms. Walker has jumped now at the opportunity to make a difference. Subsequently, Ms. Walker, Interim Dean Watkins, and Maureen Padden, CEO of the California Bankers Association, met to discuss how SCC could work with the banking industry to set up a curriculum to provide a pathway to the profession.

#### **Valero Draft Environmental Impact Report**

I attended a public meeting of Benicia residents and others interested in Valero Refinery's future at the Ironworkers Building in Benicia and was interested in learning about Valero's recent draft of their Environmental Impact Report. The refinery is in the process of reducing crude oil it receives via ships to make the shift to use rails and different sources to obtain the crude oil. This new approach will make the company more competitive and more environmentally friendly. John Hill, the current General Manager of Valero, is an SCC graduate. He was very happy to see me at the meeting. I look forward to sharing more with you as I continue to discuss these environmentally promising changes with Valero.

### **Makers Space and Hackers Space**

I met with Constance Beutel, Vice Chair, Community Sustainability Commission-Benicia; and a couple of citizens from Benicia, who have been operating an organization that provides opportunities for manufacturers and technology experts to practice and innovate. They are seeking a working relationship with SCC. The idea fits perfectly with the innovation needed by our students in technology. We discussed several possibilities for cooperation. We settled on visiting the Harbor Theatre in Suisun City to see if we could forge a partnership to share space and expertise there.

### **Tennis is Doing Well**

SCC's Phil Cello reports that hosting USTA Junior and Adults Tournaments at SCC have been very successful as demonstrated in the first phase of our plan to utilize the tennis court complex as a source of funding to provide tennis programs for SCC students and Solano county residents. With an additional eight tournaments scheduled, and with the filing of the Articles of Incorporation for the Chris R. Cammisa Tennis and Education Foundation, SCC will now be able to expand our fund-raising activities beyond running tournaments and outreach support from corporate and individual sponsors. The Foundations' first priorities are to fund men and women tennis teams and tennis classes for SCC students. For a more in-depth look at SCC's tennis future, take a look at this link from the Daily Republic.

<http://www.dailyrepublic.com/sports/cello-promoting-tournaments-to-benefit-scc-tennis/>

### **Boxing Potential**

I met with Christian Wentworth and David James (Fairfield PD) to discuss the potential of the College collaborating with a boxing organization whose interest is in using our gym for some professional boxing title fights, focusing on local boxers. The organization has worked with the city of Fairfield in the past, but need a larger facility. The economic impact to the local community is substantial and the event has been well attended and well organized in the past.

### **Football and the Future**

I know that some Trustees have been approached in regard to Football and its eventual return. The return of Football is predicated on many factors: funding, equipment, facilities, safety, and equity in regard to opportunities for men and women. Our first step has been to hire an Athletics Director (A.D.), Professor Erik Visser, a former student athlete, Coach, and Assistant Athletic Director in student support from the University of San Francisco, who has agreed to become our A.D. He is bringing some good talent, not only to sports, but also to "fund-and-friend" raising. We will get to work and update you as we initiate plans to move forward.

### **Accreditation Mid-Term Progress Report**

Dr. Dambrosio convened the Accreditation Task Force Committee last week and shared with us the progress heretofore of the Mid-Term Report. She reported that the Commission expects that we will use the current Standards for our Reports, while the upcoming Self-Study for the visit in 2017 will be centered on the newly adopted ACCJC Standards. For our Mid-Term Report due this October, there are two areas of emphasis: a response to our 2011 planning agendas and two of the Recommendations where we need to demonstrate more progress. The planning agendas are items we told the Commission we would focus on in our last Self Study and are different from the Recommendations that we have reported on for the past few years. The two Recommendations for which we must continue to document progress are Equity (both Student Equity and Staff Equity) and Distance Education.

### **Reflecting Back on Five Years**

The Governing Board and I will participate in a retreat this coming Friday. This retreat gives us an opportunity to focus on the performance of the Institution as a whole. We will review the past year and set up some direction for the future. We know that we have accomplished much over the past year and are poised to do even more

and better. However, the successes of the past year can never overshadow the bright promise of the future. It has been broadly reported, for example, that Solano County has the lowest attainment of bachelor's degrees per capita in the Bay Area. Here is an opportunity for us to grow SCC and to establish long-lasting partnerships, with other educational organizations to promote higher achievement from kindergarten to graduate school.

As we look toward the future, we now have an outstanding opportunity to make a major difference for Solano County and Winters. I urge us not to lose sight of that responsibility and to reach out to every community we serve. Many of the individuals who will not seek higher education are from families where education has not been a priority. For them, everything connected to education may be frightening. That is why it behooves us to partner at the local level as much as we can, and I am pleased that we now have opportunities to partner with Winters, Dixon, Benicia, Suisun City--the places where we do not have a strong presence. The foresight that has propelled us to where we are today should continue to guide us. I know that this is not just a dream or focus of your President, but a shared dream of all of us who work for this College.

As I complete my five years of leadership at SCC, I reflect on what we have accomplished, and the list is impressive. I hope the next five years will be even more impressive, and that our College enters the year 2020 with a solid presence in our community; classes filled with those students who deserve the excellent education that Solano Community College has delivered for many years.

**I hope you and yours had a "bang up" Fourth of July Holiday! SP Direct will resume weekly publications beginning in August.**

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.  
Superintendent-President

Here are some quotes from the Soccer [Football] World Cup being played in Brazil. It has been a great show. Some of these quotes about soccer are profoundly simple. Four teams are left; among them are Brazil and Germany who played each other in the semi-finals this week. On the other side are Argentina and the Netherlands. It could not have been set up better with two European teams and two American teams.

"The World Cup is not just a great global sporting event, it is also inscribed with much deeper cultural and political importance." — Martin Jacques

"Football is a simple game; 22 men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans always win." — Gary Lineker

"Brazil goes into every World Cup expecting to win – so when it is in Brazil it is expected even more. You can't understand what the World Cup means to our country." — Ronaldinho

"Soccer is a great game, and the rich variety of styles and passions that come with being truly global makes the World Cup a nonpareil event in the universe of competitive sport." — Serge Schmemmann

"We lost because we didn't win." — Ronaldo

"There's nothing quite like a World Cup." — Michael Owen

"The boy can do anything, but to be the star of the World Cup you have got to get to the final and win it!" — Alan Hansen

"I love myself all the time. It's a little arrogant, but even in difficult moments and moments of joy I don't like to criticize myself. There are things I could maybe have done differently, but the 'Pat' of 2010 and the 'Pat' of 2014 – I love them both." *France defender Patrice Evra*

"That was just frustration as a result of how the game was going. They're not bad guys – on the contrary, they're friends. They're always having fun together." *Cameroon defender **Stephane Mbia** gives his insight into the altercation between Benjamin Moukandjo and Benoit Assou-Ekotto at the end of Cameroon's 4-0 loss to Croatia*

"It was a crazy game. We could have scored five... Oh right, we did score five, but we could have scored six, seven or eight." ***Robin van Persie** following the Netherlands' 5-1 dismantling of Spain*

"Eras end with defeats and this was a painful defeat. We haven't been able to maintain the same levels of conviction, of hunger. The success, the happiness of before is gone. We lost our solidity." *Spain midfielder **Xabi Alon***

"We came up against three of the best nations in the world. People were saying we weren't going to score a goal. Our aim was to ensure that, in four years' time, people will fear us before we go on the pitch as much as they fear us on there now." *Australia coach **Ange Postecoglou***

"My mind was clear. I kept my focus and just tried to put it in the back of the net. I've done it thousands of times in training and a few times in matches. If you think about it, it makes no difference if there's one person watching you or thousands in a stadium." ***Georgios Samaras** on his decisive penalty for Greece against Côte d'Ivoire*

"I think the culture of Japanese football and the special characteristics and technique of the players can cut it on the world stage, but physical strength is what is lacking." *Japan coach **Alberto Zaccheroni***

"If we beat Costa Rica I want a kiss, obviously on the cheek, from the UK Queen." *Italy striker **Mario Balotelli***  
[They did not beat Costa Rica]

***Judy Spencer***

*Chief of Staff*

**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

360 Campus Lane, Suite 201

Fairfield, CA 94534

Phone: 707 864-7112 FAX: 707 646-2085

[judy.spencer@solano.edu](mailto:judy.spencer@solano.edu)

*"When it rains I walk between the raindrops."*

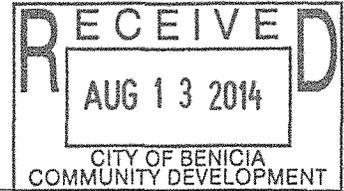
**SCC Mission:** Solano Community College's mission is to educate a culturally and academically diverse student population drawn from our local communities and beyond. We are committed to helping our students achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals centered in basic skills education, workforce development and training, and transfer-level education. The College accomplishes this three-fold mission through its dedicated teaching, innovative programs, broad curricula, and services that are responsive to the complex needs of all students.

**SCC Vision:** Solano Community College will be a recognized leader in educational excellence – transforming students' lives.

**Amy Million - Crude by rail**

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**From:** Jeff Brody <jeffwbrody@gmail.com>  
**To:** "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 8/13/2014 10:22 AM  
**Subject:** Crude by rail



As a resident living in the blast zone, I reject Valero's co-opting of my neighborhood.

You have a duty to protect me, my neighbors, my family, and my community.

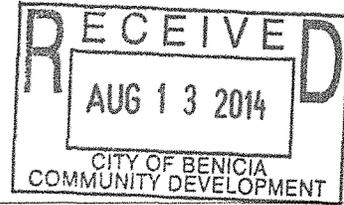
Sincerely yours,

Jeff Brody  
10 la Cruz Avenue

**Amy Million - Valero Crude by Rail Project**

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**From:** Linda Matheson <lfmatheson@ucdavis.edu>  
**To:** <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 8/13/2014 10:49 AM  
**Subject:** Valero Crude by Rail Project



Dear Amy

As a property owner and resident of Benicia, I am most concerned about the proposed Valero Crude by Rail project. Despite the jobs and revenue that Valero brings to the town, will they reimburse us for lost property values, air and noise pollution? Since past records speak louder than words, I think the answer is no. Consequently, I vehemently oppose this project.

Linda F Matheson MS PhD.

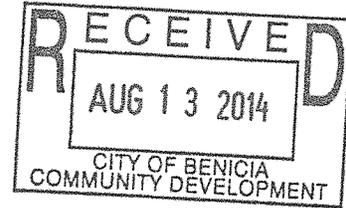
Dear Ms. Million,

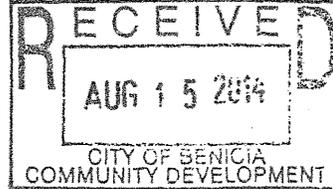
As a homeowner in the Hillcrest area of Benicia, I am writing to strongly urge the planning commission to refuse Valero's petition to allow delivery of highly combustible oil to be delivered to Benicia via rail. Given the unacceptable number of horrific rail accidents resulting in hundreds of needless deaths, as well as the railroad industry's decades-long refusal to implement available safety technology, Valero's "crude-by-rail" project is a recipe for disaster.

Thank you.

Georgia Benedict  
49 La Cruz Avenue  
Benicia 94510

707-319-1278





Vicki Johnson  
1003A E 3rd St  
Benicia, CA 94510

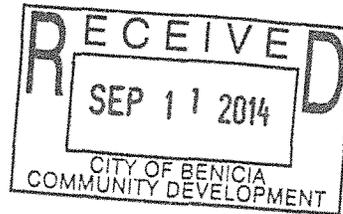
August 12, 2014

Dear Mr. Million,

Please under no condition  
allow Valero or any other oil  
company to bring that horrible  
Valero Crude-By-Rail project to  
 fruition in this lovely, little  
 town. We did not move here 15  
 years ago to be blown-up!

Thank you! Sincerely,  
Vicki Johnson, Ph.D.

September 5, 2014



Benicia Planning Commission  
City of Benicia, California

Dear Members of the Benicia Planning Commission,

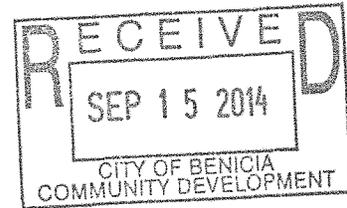
We write you to express our support for NOT CHANGING the current protocols for delivering oil to the Benicia Valero Refinery. We believe that the lack of adequate governmental supervisory regulations and the accident history with the proposed rail delivery mode is sufficient evidence that changing from the current ship offload system would present significant liability risks to the City of Benicia, its businesses, and its inhabitants..

We urge you to not allow a change to rail delivery of oil to the Benicia Valero refinery.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

  
Stephen and Maria Miller  
697 Andrew Court  
Benicia, CA 94510

Sandra Scherer  
305 Marina Village Road  
Benicia, CA 94520



September 11, 2014

Re: Crude by Rail Project

Honorable Mayor and City Council members:

I am writing to you regarding the Valero Crude by Rail project.

Please add my comments to the public legal record on Valero's Crude by Rail Project and incorporate them as part of the review of its DEIR.

I am not in favor of this project and feel it is unsafe and unnecessary.

Benicia is known for its arts, tourism, and as a beautiful place to live, work and play along the Carquinez Straits. The livelihood, well-being and future for residents and local businesses largely depend on Benicia's unique characteristics and environmental health. Current refinery activities are already a significant and known danger in our area.

A crude by rail accident or explosion could potentially endanger not only the immediate area around Benicia and Solano County but the Benicia Bridge, Contra Costa County and other towns as well, further exposing us to excessive risk.

Please add my voice of dissent to this project and please share my letter with the Planning Commission.

Thank you.

*Sandra Scherer*

Cc:

Amy Million

Planning Commissioners

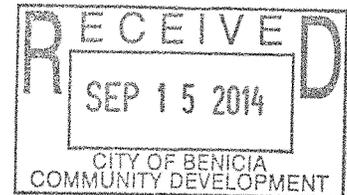
**Amy Million - Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail**

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**From:** Barbara Combs <bcombs1234@att.net>  
**To:** "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/14/2014 1:33 PM  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail

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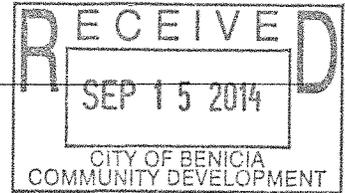
Dear Amy,  
Thank you for taking on the enormous task regarding our  
opposition to the Crude By Rail project.  
Our family is strongly opposed to this potential event.  
Sincerely,  
Barbara Combs



**Amy Million - Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail**

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**From:** June Mejias <junemejias@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/14/2014 2:56 PM  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail



Amy Million, Principal Planner, Community Development Department:

Please add my comments to the public legal record on Valero's Crude by Rail Project and incorporate them as part of the review of its DEIR.

I am writing as a concerned resident of Benicia and as a parent and grandparent.

The idea of transporting highly combustable crude oil in aging rail cars over also aging rails infrastructure is far too risky for our citizens and for people along other nearby cities. Further complicating the dangers are the obvious lack of regular railroad bridge inspectors to assure safe conditions.

Public safety should always be a priority beyond corporate profits.

Please forward this email to the planning commissioners as well.

Thank you.

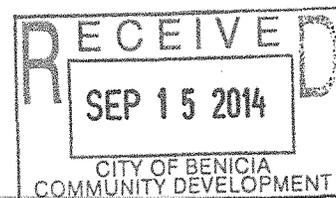
Sincerely,

June Mejias  
921 East 4th Street #9  
Benicia, CA 94510

**Amy Million - Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail**

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**From:** Leslie Swan <d.maunafrau@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/15/2014 11:41 AM  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail



This project will fatten the wallets of a few, while ruining the quality of life, and very possibly the safety, of many. It will reduce the very lovely and unique community of Benicia to a place that's considered a hazard zone. New families will not want to move to a place that is right along a train route carrying enormous amounts of deadly materials all year long, placing people, animals and the environment in danger. It is ludicrous to even spend time thinking about granting Valero rights to this project....it is corporate greed, and nothing more! PLEASE do NOT let this happen to thousands of innocent people who stand to gain NOTHING by it, and stand only to lose on property values, traffic increases, noise, and mostly, the very likelihood of toxic accidents that will be costly and dangerous. Please do not cave into corporate greed!

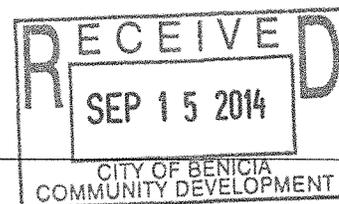
Our family will think seriously about leaving our beloved Benicia, our home for almost thirty years, and I believe we will not be alone in that line of thinking. I have extended family wanting to join us here, but they are waiting to see what the decision will be before thinking of buying here. Benicia, and the other communities along the railway line, will be tremendously diminished. Do NOT let Valero get away with this outrageous project they so greedily are pushing, all for the sake of the almighty dollar. Protect the quality of life that Benicia still maintains, despite being surrounded by so much industry. Any more potentially dangerous additions to our surroundings will be too much!!!

Leslie Swan

**Amy Million - Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail**

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**From:** Diana Walsh <isohappy@rocketmail.com>  
**To:** "amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us" <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/15/2014 3:13 PM  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail



Dear Ms. Million:

Crude by Rail is an almost criminally irresponsible undertaking given the prospects for a disastrous accident, and the lack of public and private resources to fight any explosions, the increased noise, pollution, traffic and the damage to property values in Benicia --it will lose its appeal --who will want to move to a dangerous, smelly, noisy town? That's not why I bought property here.

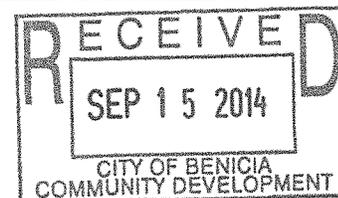
How many more people have to die and property and waterways destroyed before this ill-advised risky experiment is ended? I hope you will do whatever it takes to keep us safe. As it is being presented now, we are not safe nor are all those who are exposed to risk on the way here..  
All the best,

Diana Walsh DC  
707 745 3802  
707 720 4999

"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is." - Yogi Berra

## Amy Million - Valero's Crude by Rail proposal

**From:** "Larry J Miller" <Larry@Larry-J-Miller.com>  
**To:** <epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/15/2014 4:15 PM  
**Subject:** Valero's Crude by Rail proposal  
**CC:** <tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg



Mr. Brad Kilger & Ms. Amy Million

*Please add my comments to the public legal record on Valero's Crude by Rail Project and incorporate them as part of the review of its DEIR.*

### Valero's Crude by Rail proposal

I have been listening and reading both the pros and cons of the Valero's Crude by Rail proposal. There are always pros and cons to every project, but I don't see enough pros to overcome the cons!

There have been an increasing number of accidents in the last year all over our country. While it is true that most have not caused any human fatalities, the destroyed eco-systems and loss of animal and bird life is huge! Migrating birds will not be able to stop and rest and get food and water because their usual stop overs are either destroyed or polluted!

Who know what Mother Earth will do? She could deliver "the big" earthquake just as Valero gets a shipment of crude oil cars and "BOOM". Seeing as we live about a half mile of where the new tracks will be installed, our house could be gone in a heartbeat – and us too if we happened to be home. This project is like playing Russian roulette – You just never know when the "BOOM" is coming.

All over the country as cities find out the real deadly story about the trains transporting volatile crude oil, they are passing resolutions stating they do not want to be a part of it. But that is all they can do. You can actually do more! We would hope that our representatives will be able to see through all the "smoke and mirrors" in this project and vote "NO" on the rail extension. That is a stronger statement than just a resolution.

Do you really want your legacy to be that you were the one who voted in the project that destroyed a large portion of the town of Benicia and killed some of its citizens? I would think not!

Vote "NO" on the Valero's Crude by Rail proposal while we still have a town for you to help govern!

Larry J Miller  
 146 Carlisle Court  
 Benicia, CA 94510

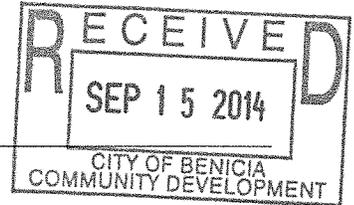
CC:

- 1.) Brad Kilger, City Manager: [bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 2.) Amy Million, Principal Planner, Community Development Department: [amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us).
- 3.) Planning Commissioners via Brad Kilger and Amy Million
- 4.) Mayor Elizabeth Patterson: [epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 5.) Vice Mayor Tom Campbell: [tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 6.) Council Member Mark Hughes: [mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 7.) Council Member Alan Schwartzman: [aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 8.) Council Member Christina Strawbridge: [cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us)

**Amy Million - Valero's Crude by Rail proposal**

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**From:** Carole Sky <carolesky@gmail.com>  
**To:** <epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/15/2014 4:16 PM  
**Subject:** Valero's Crude by Rail proposal  
**CC:** <tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us>, <cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us>



Mr. Brad Kilger & Ms. Amy Million

*Please add my comments to the public legal record on Valero's Crude by Rail Project and incorporate them as part of the review of its DEIR.*

**Valero's Crude by Rail proposal**

I think it's essential to respect the issues so many people in so many cities have raised concerning the Valero Crude by rail project.

Countless citizens feel unsafe, and, in fact, are unsafe already due to other projects of this kind. Bad accidents have caused damage, heartbreak, loss of habitat and so on.

Therefore, I oppose the Valero Crude by Rail Project and hope that health & safety take precedence over financial benefits: if we don't have our health and safety, we have no need of high finances!

Thank you for your consideration of the concern of so many citizens all over this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Sky".

146 Carlisle Court  
Benicia, CA 94510

CC:

- 1.) Brad Kilger, City Manager: [bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 2.) Amy Million, Principal Planner, Community Development Department: [amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us).
- 3.) Planning Commissioners via Brad Kilger and Amy Million

**Comment Letter D229**

4.) Mayor Elizabeth Patterson: [epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us)

5.) Vice Mayor Tom Campbell: [tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us)

6.) Council Member Mark Hughes: [mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us)

7.) Council Member Alan Schwartzman: [aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us)

8.) Council Member Christina Strawbridge: [cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us)

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## Amy Million

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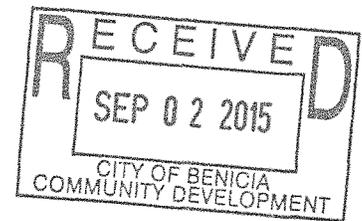
**From:** Darrin Atkins <darrinatkins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 12:00 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Public comment for Valero's proposal to deliver crude oil by rail via two 50-tanker car trains

I have a public comment. I live in Contra Costa County and this proposal is a dangerous idea. Have you seen all the news reports over the last few years regarding train explosions? If you have seen them, then you know that transporting crude oil by rail is a very dangerous idea. It is reasonably foreseeable that this is a dangerous idea and it is reasonably foreseeable that approving this will harm the environment and possibly injure or kill people.

Please vote no and do not approve this proposal to deliver crude oil by rail.

Thank you.

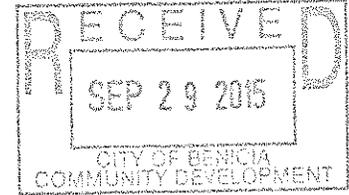
Darrin Atkins



## Amy Million

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**From:** Susie Barton <bartonsusie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 4:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment on Valero crude-by-rail project



Principal Planner, Benicia Community Development Department Amy Million,

Dear Mrs. Million,

The very idea of routing oil laden trains through residential areas is irresponsible out the gate. For all the EPA and EIR reports, what is being proposed is egregious. We recently had the wheels come off a train car in the middle of a Silicon Valley neighborhood that snarled traffic for hours. Had this car been an oil tanker, I wouldn't be here to write about it. The energy companies have proven time and again that they can't be trusted to act responsibly and we're done dying for their lies.  
NO.

Sincerely,

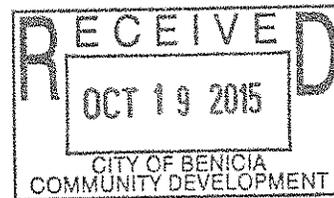
Susie Barton  
2360 Ohara Court  
San Jose, California 95133

<[http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/o/1wA/kLwXAA/t.1qq/hfUte0nYQdWYDkPqR\\_dhZA/o.gif](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/o/1wA/kLwXAA/t.1qq/hfUte0nYQdWYDkPqR_dhZA/o.gif)>

## Amy Million

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**From:** Cathy Bennett <2cathybennett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 11:21 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** opposition to Valero crude by rail proposal



Dear members,

I am VERY opposed to the prospect of Valero Refinery assuming responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of our Benicia community. Quite frankly,

I don't trust Valero to have our community's best interests, especially when it competes with their profit margins. They will always spin the facts and the story

to manipulate the public into believing Valero is best for Benicia. It is NOT good for Benicia, or for the rest of California where their proposed oil trains will be running .

PLEASE do not accept Valero's proposal and false -promises . Benicia will suffer greatly, as will our citizens with added pollutants & health / safety hazards. I myself would not choose to live in an area with so much risk, and so many verified health related factors as Benicia now has. I will sell and move away if I am left with Valero as my Lord and Master.

Think San Bruno, and it's devastation at the hands of PG&E. (another "too big to fail" industry that cares more about their profit margins than the community it serves.)

NO THANK YOU!!!! NO to Valero and their reckless plans to profit at the state of Ca expense, and all it's citizens who are clueless to the dangers being imposed upon them.

NO to Valero, crude by rail.

Cathy Bennett

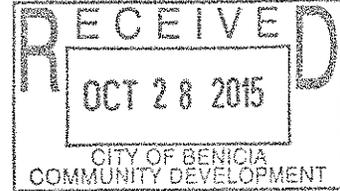
904 West 9th St

Benicia CA 94510

## Amy Million

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**From:** Betty Berteaux <birdtrax@dcn.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:25 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** crude oil transport

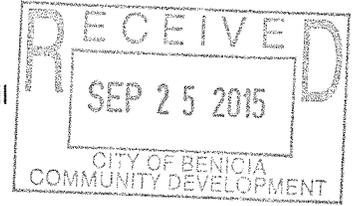


To Whom it May Concern, Transporting crude oil by rail to Benicia through the rather densely inhabited areas to the east and north of that city is a very bad idea. Indeed, it is an invitation to disaster. An oil leak that is nearly certain to happen, would be bad enough but an explosion could cause millions of dollars worth of damages that would be nearly impossible to repair, to say nothing of the human lives that would be affected. On transport trains, there have been increasingly frequent leaks and quite a few disasters. Please, do not allow this supremely bad idea to become reality. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion. sincerely, Elizabeth Berteaux, Davis. Ca.

## Amy Million

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**From:** Jeff Brody <jeffwbrody@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 3:03 PM  
**To:** Amy Million; Benicia Herald Editorial  
**Subject:** Please add to the public comments file re: crude oil by rail



Dear Editor, City Manager, and City Planners,

I am a resident of the Highlands, the Benicia neighborhood most immediately impacted by Valero, my neighbor to the east.

Our city manager claims notwithstanding, the industrial park is not the beginning and the end of Benicia. Nor is Benicia's economic output the only measure of our well-being. "Additional revenue" is meaningless, if getting it means we destroy our community.

Here is a project that fails on every measure. Public safety is threatened. Environmental quality is reduced. And the raw material, tar-sands and bakken crude oil, should never have happened in the first place. For the planet's sake, this is oil that that should be left in the ground. We should not sanction the destruction of our planet for the sake of a private corporation's profit.

Valero will survive. I wish them well. Let's thank them for their good works, and move on. Benicia will survive, too. Please say "no" to crude-by-rail.

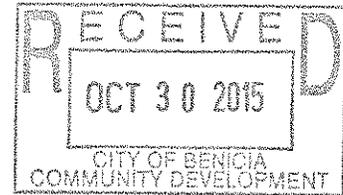
Sincerely yours,

Jeff Brody  
10 La Cruz Avenue  
Benicia, CA 94510

## Amy Million

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**From:** Beate Brühl <beabruhl@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 4:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail



Dear amy Million,  
after studying all the information about Valero's dangerous crude by rail project, I am writing to voice my fear and concern for our town, it's citizen, and our lifestyle. Many experts and informed citizens have given their articulate comments, and I don't feel the need to repeat, but:

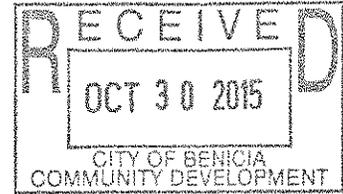
This year I have noticed an increase tourists visiting Benicia (I meet a tour bus of seniors from Oakland recently). Our town has been put on the map by newspapers recently, touting our safe, peaceful lifestyle. The impact of the Valero project, identified in the EIR as going to have a "significant and unavoidable impact", and possible disastrous accidents, stand in stark contrast to the bucolic image Benicia presents. I urge you to reject the proposal, and give us all peace of mind.

Thank you,  
Beate Brühl  
530 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

## Amy Million

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**From:** Mairead Byrne <maireadb@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 10:03 AM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR



Dear Amy....

My husband and I DO NOT WANT DANGEROUS TOXIC OIL TRAINS IN BENICIA. We live off first street and can already hear numerous trains across the strait and on the bridge. There is also an inordinate amount of dust in our house, black, unwholesome dust.....

In addition to the danger and pollution, we would be subjected to more noise pollution.

The oil comes in by ship, is it any more secure, I doubt it but leave well enough alone.

We strongly object to trains carrying crude to refineries in this area. Benicia is a nice town, and if you don't look to the left when on the pier, it's almost ideal.

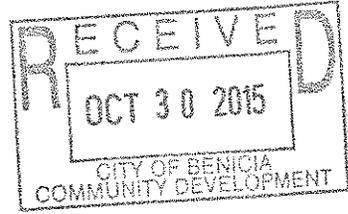
So, please do not support Valero's attempt to make this an unpleasant place to live.

Thank you  
Mairead and Marcus Byrne

## Amy Million

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**From:** Catherine Chaney <cchaney06@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:24 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR



Please do not let these toxic dangerous trains enter our city. The reasons are obvious and consequences long ranging and environmentally hazardous. These tracks and trains are in no way prepared for the amount of crude proposed to be brought here. Plus it's just a dumb idea guys!!!!

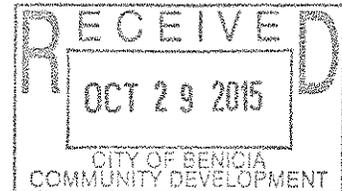
Sent from my iPhone

## Amy Million

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**From:** Brad Kilger  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 4:26 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Fwd: Valero running crude oil tankers on trains through the Sierra Mountains

Sent from the Samsung Galaxy Rugby Pro, an AT&T LTE smartphone



----- Original message -----

**From:** Dawn Cornell <dawncornell@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 10/29/2015 7:07 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Brad Kilger <BKilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Valero running crude oil tankers on trains through the Sierra Mountains

Hello Brad,

I thank you for taking the time to read my email.

I live in Auburn, Ca. one block from the rail road tracks that Valero is proposing to transport crude oil in route to Benicia.

I am asking that you say no to this proposal.

These tracks run along homes, and right next to our high school.

They also run through our beautiful Sierra Mountains and along lakes and Bay Area vacation destination areas. The potential danger of having these train cars loaded with crude oil explode, potentially causing devastation to lives and landscape, is not worth the financial benefit to one company, Valero.

We need to think of the good of the whole, all the states that the train runs through and all the people who live along the train route, not just the finances of one company.

The health and well being of our citizens and our beautiful landscape needs to be the priority.

Valero needs to find a safer way for all to transport their oil or build a refining plant at the source.

Thank you for doing everything in your power to keep all of us safe from the high potential danger of trains running 100 cars of crude oil daily through our back yards.

Best wishes to you and your family,

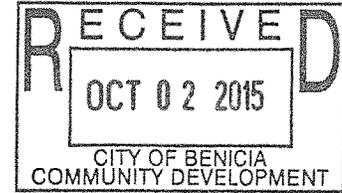
Dawn Cornell

## Amy Million

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**From:** The Crumpton's <crumpton2013@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:25 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Family Planning to Build Roots and a Business in Benicia is Against the Crude by Rail Project

Hello,



My name is Danny Crumpton and me and my family live on Buckeye Court in Benicia. My daughters go to Joe Henderson Elementary and Noah's Ark Preschool.

We are completely against the Valero request to be able to deliver crude via rail project. I have read through the report, read about other instances of crude rail derailments and it appears the risk to the public's health and safety far out way any economic issues that might arise if Valero is allowed to do this.

I am a business man and I understand the role economically that Valero plays within the City of Benicia. I am a beneficiary to some extent from the business Vallejo generates, but I believe the project goes too far. From what I understand (Correct me if I am wrong) here are the major concerns regarding this project:

### Basics Against:

- Could contribute to more air pollution
- Could damage the local environment
- An accident could cause a major disaster
- Concern the railway infrastructure is old and not stable enough
- The trains being uses are not sufficient and were not meant to carry dangerous material

### Basics for:

- Fear if Valero does not get this, they could close up and leave Benicia
- Could create more jobs in Benicia
- Fiscally could impact local residents and local business who support the refinery and oil industry if they do not get this.

I understand the arguments for, but the long term economic effects of more pollution, environmental degradation and a major disaster could economically cost the City of Benicia more in the long run. Not to even mention the most import issue, is the threat to lives if an accident happens. It is pretty simple, this threat far out ways and anything since a region can recover from the economic fallout if Valero leaves.

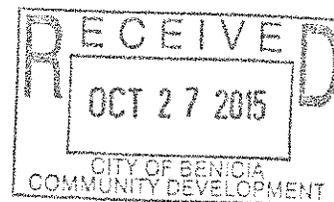
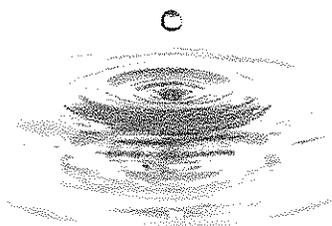
If Valero leaves, we as a community need to prepare to diversify our local economy to ensure the long term viability of the City and to ensure we are not held hostage by one industry/business. My goal is to build roots in Benicia, but it would break my heart if one of my family members or friends within the community were gravely affected by an accident that was caused by Valero shipping oil via train.

This article from the Weather Channel sums it up my concern. If you have not seen it, I urge you to please review it (I believe the Weather Channel is politically neutral). <http://stories.weather.com/boom>

Thank you for hearing me out.

Regards,

Danny Crumpton



October 27, 2015

TO; City of Benicia, Planning Commission

FROM: Jerri Curry, Ph.D., LMFT, CATC,

Re: Valero and rail/train implementation

May this serve as my very strong objection to the City of Benicia Planning Commission giving approval to the Valero Refinery's request to transport oil via trains which will be endangering the citizens and the entire community. There were many comments made at the last hearing in the City Hall chambers. The comments in opposition to granting Valero Refinery for rail transport of oil were valid, factual and alarming. The train bombs have destroyed similar communities and Planning Commission cannot allow our lovely community to be placed in such a precarious and dangerous position.

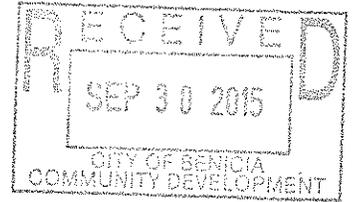
I want to be notified of any future hearings, meetings or actions regarding this issue. Please keep me so informed. My contact information is: Dr. Jerri Curry, 77 Solano Square, #321, Benicia, CA 94510. My email address is [jerricurry5@yahoo.com](mailto:jerricurry5@yahoo.com)

Thank you.

## Amy Million

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**From:** Gina Day <drginaday@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:42 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Deny Permit for Valeri to Expand Crude by Rail



I oppose the expansion of Valero's crude by rail terminal due to public health risk, safety concerns, noise and traffic. As I sit here in the commission meeting, all of the speakers in favor of Valero's terminal stand to profit in some way. Valero and Union Pacific have lots to gain. Twenty long term jobs and a hundred short-term jobs during construction plus some more tax revenue doesn't seem worth the long term damage to air quality, noise, and risk of explosions and toxic emissions. Lac Megantic lost 47 lives, traumatized the survivors and the town is permanently a toxic uninhabitable disaster site.

All of Benicia should not bear the burden for the profit of a few.

Benicia deserves better and can do better. Benicia has a bright future and does not need to become even more dependent on Valero. Benicia's economy has other options and we can diversify into cleaner, safer, healthier businesses. Protect the quality of life and property values in Benicia.

Thank you,

Gina Day, O.D.  
3307 Fernwood St  
Vallejo CA 94591  
415-308-7794

Sent from Outlook <<http://aka.ms/Ox5hz3>>

## Amy Million

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**From:** Carol Denney <carol.denney@no-smoke.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:33 PM  
**To:** beniciaherald@gmail.com; opinion@timesheraldonline.com; Amy Million  
**Subject:** Valero's Crude By Rail Project - comments

To: Amy Million, Principal Planner, Benicia Community Development Department  
250 East L Street,  
Benicia, CA 94510  
amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us <mailto:amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us?subject=Comment%20for%20the%20record%20-%20Valero%20Crude%20By%20Rail>

Dear Ms. Million and Planning Commissioners,

My grandfather was a quiet, proud, intelligent man who was the first man in Somerset County, Pennsylvania to drive a car, among the best dancers in the county, and could captivate crowds playing banjo and euphonium in local bands while working as the county assessor.

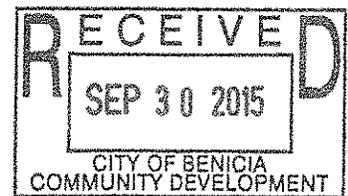
And he was a double amputee. He was hit by a coal train as an eight-year-old boy at a time when prosthetic limbs, especially for children, were nearly impossible to find. His life was one of navigating unbearable pain and mobility issues at a time when such things were not discussed.

We are still at the infancy of dealing well with trains racing through our communities, communities full of people who routinely miscalculate the danger. We still have injuries, collisions, and deaths at a growing rate despite the best efforts of planners so far, and no EIR which does not fully address the current increase in these accidents is adequate.

Please oppose Valero's Crude By Rail Project, which facilitates the crisis in global warming by using rail to export fossil fuels. We need to join together with the other communities which have taken a stand to commit to a safe and sustainable future while we still have the chance.

Sincerely,

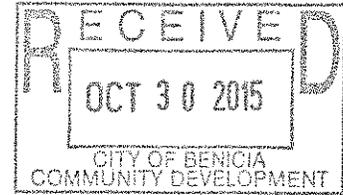
Carol Denney  
1970 San Pablo #4  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
510-548-1512



## Amy Million

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**From:** Rick Donnelly <rjd9999@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 6:33 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR



I have no idea why anyone, knowing what we know about climate change and the benefits of renewables, would even consider additional investment in fossil fuel projects such as this. It is wasteful, toxic, and environmentally unsound. When the potential risks of shipping highly explosive materials on stretches of dubious track and inadequate containment by rail cars are added to the equation, the entire project seems downright irresponsible to even consider.

Sure, there are profits to be made. Certainly, Valero has been a better corporate neighbor than most oil companies, but the costs to the health of the people and environment are just not worth pushing this through. The number of jobs created is minimal and the money will, mostly, not be spent in Benicia.

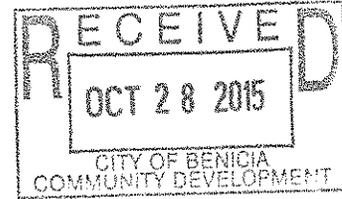
This project is ill-conceived, risky, and will simply add to the climate damage created by fossil fuels. Please do not allow this to continue.

Rick

## Amy Million

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**From:** Marti Vinson <mvinson@omsoft.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:39 AM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Oil-by-Rail input



To the City Council of Benicia:

I am opposed to the transport of Bakken Crude Oil by train or other manner of transport through Davis to Benicia. A wreck, leak, or derailment of a train carrying this crude oil has the potential to destroy our environment and is far too dangerous to the people and to the towns and cities along its routes.

Trains carrying the Bakken crude oil will not only be coming through the town of Davis but many other towns and cities along the way. As you know, The trains are carrying and spilling record amounts of oil. More than 141 unintentional releases were reported from railroad tankers in 2014... a nearly six-fold increase over the average of 25 spills per year during the period from 1975 to 2012, according to records of the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Record.

The risk is not worth it to us. We have seen what happened in Lac-Megantic, a wreck that wiped out the downtown and killed 47 people. We have witnessed what happened when there was a derailment and explosion of 14 tank cars near Mount Carbon, WV. And we see what could happen in Davis, Benicia, and other towns as the trains go through our towns, our downtowns, past our schools, and our neighborhoods.

The potential exists for a disaster from a spill, a wreck, a derailment, or a collision. A potential explosion is ever present and not worth taking the risk of transporting this crude oil.

Marti Anna Vinson Feldman  
1506 Claremont Drive  
Davis, CA 95616

Amy Million  
Principle Planner  
Community Development Department  
250 East L. Street  
Benicia, Ca 94510



Amy:

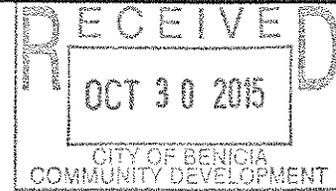
After reading the article in the September 1, 2015 Herald regarding the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report on Crude-by Rail Project, we strongly urge the City Council NOT to permit the project to move forward.

Sandy and Bill Franchini  
312 W. K. Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

## Amy Million

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**From:** rfree@sonic.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:28 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Valero



Dear Ms. Million: Please forward this message to the Planning Commissioners. Thank you.

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Dear Planning Commissioners:

I write in opposition to the proposed Valero refinery upgrade.

While not opposed to jobs, it is by now clear that even more jobs are (and will be) available as the renewable energy field expands (as it is rapidly doing in other countries). We are being asked to pit our literal survival against jobs, an untenable choice for all of us. But...this is what it has come down to, after 200 years of industrialization, and we are the ones alive at this pivotal moment in history, to decide which road we shall pursue.

It is a fact that the oil industry ALREADY has a glut of oil, and prices are very low as a result. That glut comes from unregulated and unstoppable drilling. Valero suggests that this is insufficient, and that more is required. But for what? Energy independence? The U.S. has not, nor has it indicated that it will cease, importing oil from the Middle East, so that is a red herring. On top of which, if approved, this project will permit the movement of more oil bomb trains through the Bay Area, which suggests reckless endangerment of the public by those officials in a position to prevent the possibility of train explosions. It is well known that both the oil and railroad industries are very barely regulated.

But what about future generations who will have to cope with increasing droughts, wildfires and flooding? We are seeing these already, and yet the industry remains stubbornly impervious to reality for the sake of a few more ill-gotten dollars, even with our literal survival at stake. Where are our family values in this discussion? Even the Pope has cautioned humanity of the danger we are courting.

I respectfully request that you reject ANY plan(s) to run more and/or higher sulfur content crude oil through the Valero refinery.

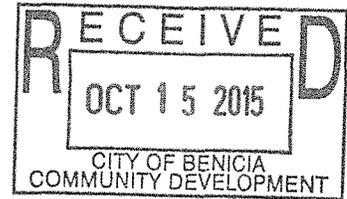
Very truly yours,

Richard Freeman  
Kensington, CA

## Amy Million

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**From:** Brad Kilger  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** FW: STOP trains through Auburn



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**From:** Terri Goodman [mailto:starlightstudio@me.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:26 PM  
**To:** Brad Kilger  
**Subject:** STOP trains through Auburn

Dear City Manager Brad Kilger,

I am writing to strongly oppose the decision to allow Valero to build a massive terminal for oil trains at its Benicia refinery. I live one block from the Rail Road Tracks in the town of Auburn, California. On the other side of the tracks is Placer High School. I don't want to see the tragedy that occurred in Quebec and Virginia to happen in our town of Auburn. One hundred tank cars loaded with crude oil passing through our town DAILY is unacceptable, dangerous, and must be stopped.

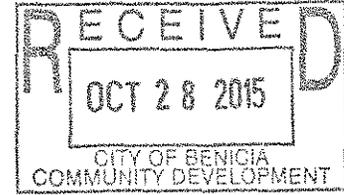
Please vote NO on this issue to save the lives of all the people who live along these tracks, throughout many cities along the route.

*Terri Goodman*  
*215 Terrace Street*  
*Auburn, CA 95603*

## Amy Million

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**From:** Nancy Hilden <nancy.hilden@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:22 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Cc:** Nadine Hilden; wh; louis\_hilden@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Crude Oil through Davis

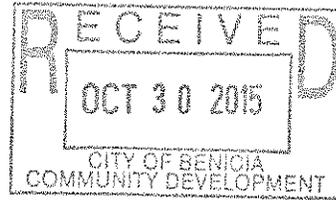


I'm aghast at the short sighted plans to transport highly flammable oil through highly populated cities, as my own, by Valero. The danger, witnessed in tragic fires in similar circumstances, and even the stupidity to a company's bottom line, is incomprehensible to aware people. Please stop this action. Nancy Hilden

## Amy Million

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**From:** Diane Hill <dianehill9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 4:39 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR



Benicia City Council,

I used to own a condo in this town but sold it to move to Moraga. But I came back this year.

I came back for the quality of life in Benicia. The fact that it still has a main street with businesses and restaurants, that breathes on the waterfront. It is quickly becoming a unique place, recalling the California I love and grew up in, fast disappearing under a cross of commercialism, land development, and environmental degradation.

The Benicia City Council **must not allow** Valero to ship crude oil to its refinery here.

Why would the City Council ever see benefit to in this scheme? Crude oil is a retrograde approach to the country's energy needs and oil industry seeks to export American oil. Why should we sacrifice what is best about living in Benicia for Valero's profit margin that is **unsustainable and placing in harm's way so many other communities** whether they lie in the Dakotas or the Alberta tar sand regions and all shipping points to Benicia should there be a spill. The EIR is clear. The incidents of train derailment are facts. For **WHAT** do you place Benicia and other people at risk if you consent to this horrible idea? It could only be short-term greed, lack of vision, and relinquishing your stewardship of Benicia's future and its children's best interests.

**I implore you to vote AGAINST Valero's plan to ship crude oil here.**

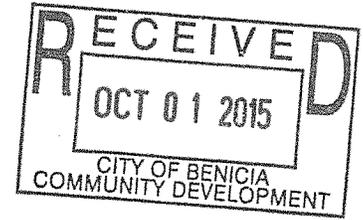
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Diane E. Hill, Ph.D.  
456 Turner Drive  
Benicia

## Amy Million

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**From:** Brad Kilger  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 1:20 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Fwd: Valero CBR



Sent from the Samsung Galaxy Rugby Pro, an AT&T LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Allen Kaplan <alkap@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date:** 10/01/2015 1:19 PM (GMT-08:00)  
**To:** Brad Kilger <BKilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Valero CBR

No CBR until and unless the railroad safety issue is solved. Too many spills across the country. Why should we be the next disaster city?

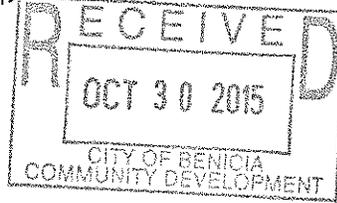
Allen Kaplan

Former supporter of CBR

## Amy Million

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**From:** karen kingsolver <klkdavis2003@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 10:21 AM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Oil by Rail



Hello,

As a concerned citizen of Davis, CA can you please count my vote against the Valero Refinery using our railroad to ship crude oil. Is there anyone else I can contact to vote against this?

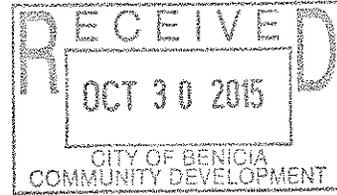
Thank you,

Karen Kingsolver  
5011 Swingle Dr.  
Davis, Ca 95618

## Amy Million

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**From:** Parisa LoBianco <info@starlightschool.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 4:57 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Valero Crude Oil



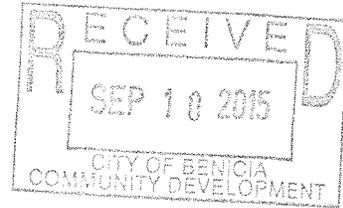
To Whom It May Concern:

I'd like to express my objection to the Valero Crude Oil Project to go through. I am a home and business owner in Benicia and I believe it is a great mistake. It is dangerous for the people of this town as well as all others that are in the path. It is an environmental hazard with very little sustainability zero profit for the town of Benicia.

Thank you for your time,

Parisa LoBianco

September 8, 2015



Ms. Amy Million, Principal Planner  
Community Development Department  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Ms. Million,

This letter is intended to be used as public comment on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report on Valero's Crude-by-Rail Project.

I reviewed the RDEIR, and go on record as opposing transporting crude oil by rail.

I read numerous potential "negative effects" in the RDEIR. I conclude I do not support this hazardous practice in Benicia, or anywhere else! To be fair, I went online and researched arguments supporting the transportation of crude oil by rail. There weren't any. I did find information about how companies are trying to make rail cars safer, but no concrete reasons for change from status quo. Thus, I believe Valero's only reason for supporting crude-by-rail is financial. It must be more economically feasible for the oil company, or why would they continue their quest?

Oil companies have no motivation to eliminate reliance on fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse emissions, and improve overall environmental quality. Their motivation is profit.

Unless consumers make decisions that impact the profits of oil companies, the research, development and widespread acceptance of other energy sources will remain negligible.

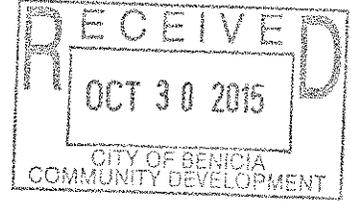
Sincerely,

Joanna Lyons  
641 Semple Court  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707)980-2816

## Amy Million

---

**From:** Martin MacKerel <martin.mackerel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 1:14 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** public comment on Valero crude-by-rail RDEIR



In 2015 it is inexcusable to even be considering a new fossil-fuel infrastructure project. Recent research[1] shows that supply-side restriction can be effective, so projects cannot be defended on the incorrect notions that demand is a given and that supply "leakage" is inevitable.

In any case, despite low oil prices, state demand for gasoline and diesel has been dropping and is certainly going to drop more as electric vehicles become more popular. There simply is no good economic or social reason to approve this project and plenty of good reasons to reject it.

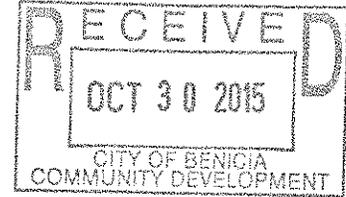
Martin MacKerel  
1647 McAllister St. #6  
San Francisco, CA 94115

1. <http://www.sei-international.org/publications?pid=2835>

## Amy Million

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**From:** Diane (Dee) Merrick <petsnplantsdee@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 1:27 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR

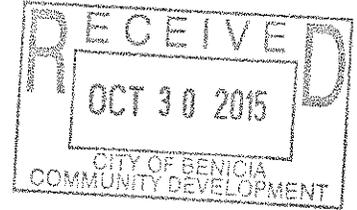


I live in Vallejo not Benicia, but we frequently get the clouds of nasty smelling stuff from the refineries nearby. I really don't want to think about the "bomb trains" running all through the densely populated Bay Area at all. There is no evidence whatsoever that these trains are or will become safe methods of transport for these volatile materials. Please do not consider endangering all of us to appease the big money, greedy oil corporations.  
Sincerely, Diane Merrick

## Amy Million

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**From:** Mariale Neighbours <mlneighbours@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 4:26 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Opposition to Valero Shipment of Crude Oil-Benicia



I am strongly opposed to the shipment of extremely explosive crude oil and tar sands to Benicia . The dangers these kind of shipments pose has previously been recorded by other opponents of the measure. I won't repeat them.

As a native California whose ancestors were here prior to California becoming a state, I believe towns like Benicia need to be cherished and preserved. And no amount of profit can possibly outweigh the need for caution in protecting the lives of Benicia's public, including its children.

Promises about safety are easily made before a destructive incident. It is far better to avoid a dangerous enterprise before that incident occurs.

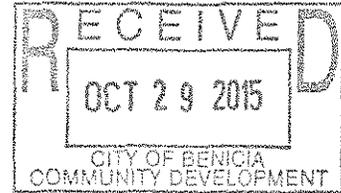
I hope you will reach the conclusion that the proposed project is inherently unsafe. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,  
Mariale Neighbours  
115 East G. Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

## Amy Million

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**From:** Larry the O <larrytheo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 3:11 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR



Dear Ms. Million,

I am a resident of Vallejo and I want to urge that Valero's crude-by-rail plan in Benicia be rejected. I do not have my documentation together enough to cite statistics and studies, and, of course, I am not even a Benicia resident; perhaps that will invalidate this letter. Nevertheless, it is clear from abundant recent examples that safety and release of toxic substances from a rail accident are more likely than not when running such large quantities of trains carrying such large quantities of very dirty and volatile oil. Vallejo is not far enough from Benicia to protect it from the impact of a major train accident, thus I consider this proposal my business.

Beyond safety concerns, it is not clear to me that the economic benefits for Benicia come close to offsetting the impact on traffic, air quality, and even the rail infrastructure that Valero's project would impose. Given scant economic benefits, strong community opposition, and a plethora of negative outcomes, I am hoping it will be as obvious to you as it is to me that Valero's plan is just a plain old bad idea.

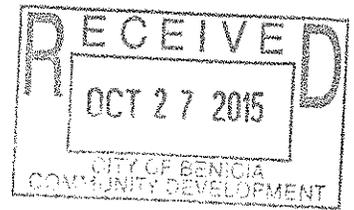
Cheers,

Larry Oppenheimer  
Louisiana Street  
Vallejo, CA

## Amy Million

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**From:** Peters, Robert <RPeters@dvc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:34 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Fw: Letter opposing the Valero Crude-by-rail proposal



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Subject: Letter opposing the Valero Crude-by-rail proposal

Ms. Amy Million:

I'm no scientist -- and couldn't add anything more to the data-fueled reasons and measurable metrics as to why this singular gamble from Valero Inc. is too dangerous, defiant and inimical to the town we have all worked in, shopped, played, bragged about and raised families in. Benicia is indeed a special jewel of a town that simply should not be in competition with other towns that seem so wedded to heavy industrial output that they soon become known and degraded primarily for that association: That simply is not the image, future and profile that Benicians could possibly want. Nor, on balance, is it a healthy, sustainable economic image for a town.

A few observations: We are in the midst of a flat, receding marketplace for petroleum products world wide; who would cringe when contemplating the inevitable growth of land, sea and air-borne pollutants and toxics and the enormous 24-7 risks inherent in shipping such combustible, toxic substances through both our town and our many neighboring communities;

and whenever we hear the crackled cough of a youngster or an elder who has asthma, we can afford to take Valero's proposal in a civil way -- but not at all in a serious way. Their's is merely a cheap, ugly and unproven method to fatten their monetary output -- benefiting a sliver of higher ups in the Texan conglomerate -- while putting all of us, our visitors, schools, parks and businesses and our neighbors along the route -- in permanent fear and disgust over their crude-oil fantasy trains.

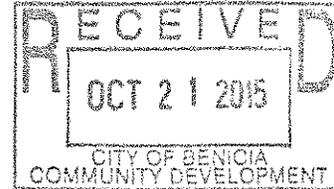
I encourage you to utilize your considerable depth and breadth of knowledge of our town and its peoples, and hope you vote to refuse adoption of the Valero scheme; and rather, vote to safeguard the entire population of this town, young and old, and those populations adjacent to us.

Regards,

Rob Peters 560 Sandy Way, Benicia, CA. 94510

707 746-7422

Adele Poenisch  
2 Claremont Crescent  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
Oct 18, 2015



Amy Million, Principal Planner  
Community Development Dept.  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Ms. Million,

My husband, Ken Matsumura, and myself attended the September 29, 2015 Planning Commission Crude by Rail RDEIR Public Comment Meeting and were impressed by the number of reasons speakers had for opposing the Crude Oil trains coming to Benicia. We were also very impressed by the attentiveness and courtesy the Planning Commissioners gave each speaker regardless of that speaker's opinion.

As I spoke at the Planning Commission, this letter is not to add an additional count against, but to reiterate how important your decision will be to Benicia, the Bay Area, to California, and the world.

Thankfully Valero has a good safety record. We appreciate that. But the new oil trains will mean the risk is greater, the possible destruction worse, and many dangers will be outside their safe refinery. So their past safety record isn't relevant when it comes to the crude oil trains.

I heard "Valero has been a good neighbor" many times during the planning meeting. But we saw many people, and all were, I'm sure, good neighbors. Each individual counts as much as any business. Many of those who spoke against the oil trains had businesses and employed local residents. They described great inconveniences to their livelihoods if the oil trains were allowed. Home owners described how their major investment, their home, could be perceived as valueless.

Proponents said they had done all due-diligence. But just performing as you are suppose to should not be the reason to grant permission. If your teenager asked to go base jumping because they got good grades in school and didn't fight with their younger sibling, you probably wouldn't give them permission. Of course Valero did everything they could to secure your permission, preparing to do this expansion was simply investing in a high profit, high risk future.

But Benicia's future will be low profit, high risk and the loss of peace of mind.

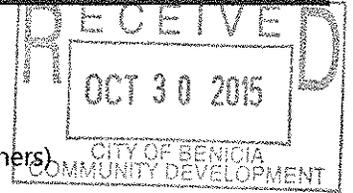
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adele Poenisch".

Adele Poenisch

**Amy Million**

**From:** Eleanor Prouty <epbandbiz@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 1:53 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Valero Revised DEIR (please share with Planning Commissioners)



*Please add my comments to the public legal record on Valero's Crude By Rail Project and incorporate them as part of the review of the RDEIR.*

Dear Ms. Million and Benicia Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express deep concern over Valero's proposed oil train offloading facility in Benicia. According to the EIR, this project would create several "significant and unavoidable impacts" on our city.

I moved to Benicia in 2002 because of its combination of scenic beauty, great people, quality public schools and strong sense of community. Benicia has come to be a special community based on the choices of prior city leaders - planning commissioners, city council, and city staff. It is not by accident but by careful planning and choices that such communities are created and maintained.

I ask you all to do your part to continue this legacy and protect the city's long term and short term interests. For Benicia's sake alone, the many risks of this project for our residents and businesses, are not worth the benefit to one multinational corporation. These risks are more than sufficient reason to decline to certify this EIR.

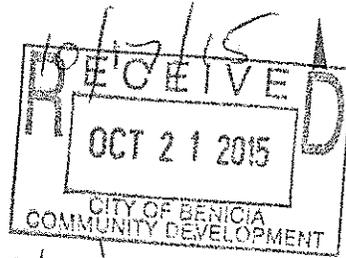
I want to add that this proposed project also calls upon our city government to be responsible stewards for the health, air and water quality for all of Northern California. The risks of bringing Baken Crude Oil overland via train must not be ignored. The critical drought we are enduring means risks to our water of the magnitude represented by a crude oil spill along this rail line are unacceptable and economically foolish.

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge the Planning Commission and City Council to not certify this EIR and reject Valero's proposed oil train terminal in Benicia.

Sincerely,  
Eleanor Prouty

R

Diana Ray  
1290 Marlboro Ct  
Concord, CA 94521



Dear Amy Million,

It's a bit disheartening to think, as a layman, that I really need to explain to someone in your position all the problems and obvious embedded loopholes in the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Valero Crude by Rail project, and, indeed, the project itself.

First and foremost, of course, is the paramount need to wean ourselves from using fossil fuel as an energy source. (cont)

B

Diana Ray  
1290 Marlboro Ct  
Concord, CA 94521

Why would we invest in a program at this juncture that is not directed at renewable energy development? Why would we risk the health and welfare of all the communities along the routes, sensitive natural habitats along the routes and around production sites, passengers using the intended routes, and the functionality of the rail system itself from increased use?

It is common knowledge that the oil industry has a terrible  
hemlock.com  
(cont.)

R

Diana Ray  
1290 Marlboro Ct  
Concord, CA 94521

track record for complying with regulations, safety requirements, clean up response, and honest data disclosure and interpretation. These concerns don't even address natural disaster scenarios, something that seismologists and marine scientists claim we are overdue to experience in the near future.

Again, it's ridiculous to be in this conversation at all. It's merely another case of merchants of doubt spreading misinformation for a corporate agenda. Even if  
(cont.)



Diana Ray  
1290 Marlboro Ct  
Concord, CA 94521

global warming weren't manmade  
(which it is) why wouldn't we  
still be throwing everything  
at the science to do whatever  
possible to save our miracle  
planet from becoming uninhabitable  
(like Venus).

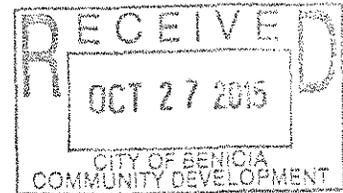
For all our advanced degrees  
we can't seem to think logically,  
consider our situation critically,  
and have new, healthy conversations.  
The idea that I need to write  
such a letter to supposedly  
smart people leaves me flummoxed.

Diana Ray

hmm.com  
###

FAX to: 707 747-1637

To: Benicia Planning Commission  
Re: Comments on RDEIR Valero Crude by Rail  
From: Theresa Ritts, Benicia Resident



I am writing to declare my opposition to the use permit for Valero's Crude by Rail Project. I have the safety and well being of Benicians at heart when I say that I am against the approval of the permit which was addressed in the RDEIR.

There have been many Crude by Rail train derailments in the US and Canada, with resulting explosions, fires, and evacuations, and causing loss of life and property.

I don't want the risk of Crude by Rail train derailments with catastrophic consequences in Benicia or uprail from Benicia.

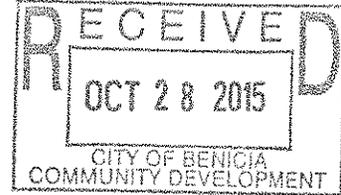
I have been a Benicia citizen for 38 years: in fact, I live very near to the Valero pipeline that abuts Francesca Terrace Park. As a Benician, I believe that the risks outweigh the benefits of Valero's permit proposal.

I respectfully ask the Benicia Planning Commission to reject the permit for Valero's Crude by Rail Project.

## Amy Million

---

**From:** Chuck Robbins <robbins.bluebird@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 1:02 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Crude Oil shipments through Davis



Dear Ms. Million,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to send two 50-car trains per day through Davis carrying crude oil. The proposed route passes directly through downtown business and residential areas, not to mention areas of the UC campus (e.g., the Mondavi Center) that frequently contain large numbers of people.

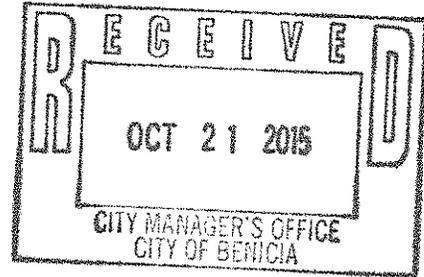
Consequences from any type of leak or accident could be significant. We have gotten by just fine without these shipments in the past. There is no reason to jeopardize safety and the environment at this point in time, especially when gas prices are so low. I would gladly pay a premium not to have these shipments transit our town.

Sincerely,

Christine Robbins

October 15, 2015

City of Benicia City Manager  
Mr. Brad Kilger  
250 E.L. Street  
Benicia, CA 94510



Dear Mr. Kilger:

We would like the City of Benicia to reject the Valero Refinery's proposed CBR project.

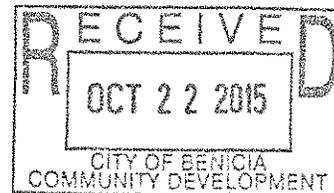
Please do not approve this project as it is too dangerous to too many communities.

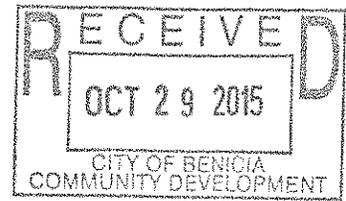
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daryl & Bonnie Rosta  
20275 Rim Rock Ct.  
Foresthill, CA 95631

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daryl Rosta".





October 29, 2015

Amy Million, Principal Planner, Community Development Department  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

Dear Amy Million and Benicia Planning Commission:

I urge you to deny certification of the EIR and reject Valero's proposal to build a massive offloading crude oil train facility in Benicia. Its current use of ship delivery of crude is safer as all ships are required to be double hulled limiting potential large spills and toxic emissions in transit.

In contrast, transporting crude by rail is not safe. An Associated Press article reported earlier this year that a Department of Transportation analysis completed in July 2014 predicted that trains hauling crude oil or ethanol will derail an average of 10 times a year over the next two decades, causing more than \$4 billion in damage and possibly killing hundreds of people if an accident happens in a densely populated part of the U.S. The report further notes that if just one of those more severe accidents occurs in a high-population area, like Sacramento, Davis or Benicia, it could kill more than 200 people and cause roughly \$6 billion in damage.

As a Benicia citizen, what keeps me awake at night? It's not that a ship carrying crude to Valero will blow up in the Carquinez Straits. It's the prospect of two mile-long trains carrying explosive and toxic Bakken crude --a total of 100 unsafe rail tank cars-- arriving daily, 365 days a year, to Valero's new off loading crude oil train facility in Benicia. The existing tank cars, whether DOT 111 or DOT 1234, are not strong enough and lack effective braking systems and other safety improvements to carry these enormous volumes of volatile fuel.

Each tank holds 30,000 gallons of fuel or the energy equivalent to two million sticks of dynamite and/or the fuel in one wide body jet liner. Multiply these figures by fifty cars and each one mile long train holds the equivalent energy of 100 million sticks of dynamite or the fuel of 50 wide body jet liners. In addition, the million gallons of flammable fuel cargo carried by 100 cars emit toxic pollutants of nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, benzene and fine particular matter. That's an unacceptable daily risk to health and safety to Benicia and all

uprail communities and to environmentally sensitive areas throughout California.

The transportation of hazardous substances such as crude oil, poses potential of fires, explosions and hazardous material releases. Bakken oil is highly flammable and easily ignited. Derailments can happen in many ways. A rail can break underneath a train. An axle can fail. A vehicle can block a crossing. Having a better tank car could reduce the odds of a tank car leaking or rupturing. The AP article pointed out, however, that Industry representatives say it could take a decade to retrofit and modify more than 50,000 tank cars. Existing unsafe tank cars will be with us for a decade. As per the revised DEIR: Potential train derailments would result in "significant and unavoidable" adverse effects to people, and secondary effects biological, cultural and hydrological resources and geology.

The revised DEIR also states:

Impacts to air quality would be "significant and unavoidable" because the project would generate significant levels of GHG and conflict with plans adopted for reducing GHG emissions.

In summary, transport of crude by rail is not safe. It is dangerous and places our lives, our communities, our wildlife, our land, our environment and sensitive waterways in daily peril.

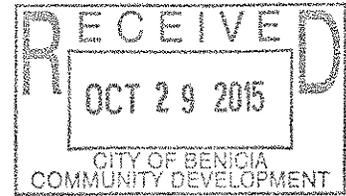
Again, I urge you, the planning commission and city council to deny certification for this EIR and reject Valero's proposed oil train terminal in Benicia.

Sincerely,  
Michele Rowe-Shields  
560 Capitol Drive  
Benicia, CA 94510

## Amy Million

---

**From:** Brad Kilger  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 4:26 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed CBB project



Sent from the Samsung Galaxy Rugby Pro, an AT&T LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Michael K Murphy <mkmurphy@mkmurphy.com>  
**Date:** 10/29/2015 7:03 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Brad Kilger <BKilger@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed CBB project

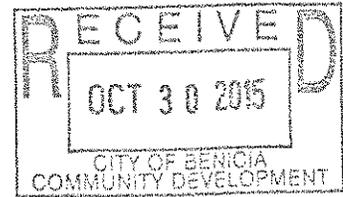
Dear Mr. Kilger,

I live in Auburn Ca. one half block downhill from the Railroad and a main gas line that runs parallel to it. I understand you are in negotiations with Union Pacific to allow a large increase of crude oil to pass by my home. Placer High School borders the tracks and is also downhill. I think it would be very dangerous and an extremely bad idea to approve the CBB project! PLEASE do not allow this to happen!

Thank you in advance for keeping big business out!

Kathleen Sailor  
180 Agard St.  
Auburn, Ca.  
95603

City of Benicia Planning Commission and City Council  
October 29, 2015



I have spoken in front of the planning commission twice and wrote a letter on July 14 outlining my opposition to the Valero plan to bring two 100 car trains to their facilities, filled with explosive crude oil.

I asked questions about the safety of the tracks and bridges on the routes and especially the safety record of the bridge between Martinez and Benicia

I asked about Valero's claim the the air quality in the entire San Francisco basin would improve but no study was provided regarding the air quality in Benicia and our immediate neighbors. We already have more cases of asthma than other parts of the Bay Area and our children are greatly impacted by the air quality in our town

I asked about insurance that Valero has to carry to assure our community that they will be there to cover us in case there is an accident

None of these questions have been answered in the revised RDEIR

The only question that seemed to be addressed in the RDEIR was the question of train safety from the oil fields to the hub in Roseville. The only answer that Valero could provide is that they have no control over train safety because that is the responsibility of the railroads and the Federal Government. Their justification is that they have done their due diligence and therefore we should approve their project.

This seems ridiculous. Supposing your child came to you and asked permission to participate in an activity that poses excessive risk to their health and wellbeing as well as the health and well being of their friends and community, but expected you to give them that permission because they have no control over that risk. As an adult and the decision maker you would have to deny them that permission.

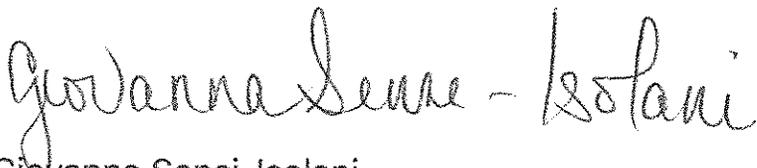
The RDEIR was clear that all the rail routes to Roseville provided excessive levels of risk to the environment and excessive increase in poor air quality therefore negatively influencing the health of people up track from Benicia. It's obvious that the same unacceptable risks would also effect us here in Benicia.

This decision has nothing to do with Valero's good safety record nor with their participation in the community or the money that they bring to our city coffers. This decision has to do with the safety of the project and the future of our entire community and our planet.

As I said at the last planning commission public forum: this is a very crucial time on our "Planet Earth". It is obvious that we must change to alternative sources of energy in order to leave a habitable planet for our children and their children. We have started doing this by having the chance to select a power company that provides electricity that is generated by solar and wind power. We must move towards alternative ways to power our cars too and we must leave the oil in the ground especially the oil that is so highly explosive.

This is the chance for you, as leaders in our community, to speak for us and for our grandchildren to show them that you have their future foremost in your mind as you vote NO on approving this project.

Don't let our grandchildren's children say "what were you thinking" when they have to face a hot and crowded planet. Our community can be a leader in solving the climate change problem and our descendants will say "thank you for thinking of our future"

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Giovanna Sensi-Isolani". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

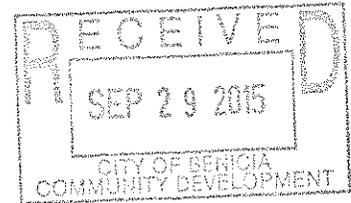
Giovanna Sensi-Isolani

Benicia resident

## Amy Million

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**From:** sam r sheppard <samreesesheppard@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 5:12 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment on Valero crude-by-rail project



Principal Planner, Benicia Community Development Department Amy Million,

Dear Mrs. Million,

I am writing to express deep concern over Valero's proposed oil train offloading facility in Benicia.

It is time to stand up to the rapacious and destructive corporations that are destroying the world and our country.

No - to the poisonous pollution that they try to bring to our people and our state.

Sincerely, SamRSheppard

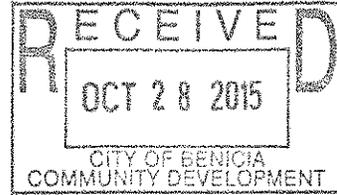
sam r sheppard  
Alice St.  
Oakland, California 94612

<<http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/o/5AA/kLwXAA/t.1qr/zQPv2SQXRJ2s09xBcxaQEQ/o.gif>>

## Amy Million

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**From:** Diane Simon <simonsez@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:28 AM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Oil trains in Davis

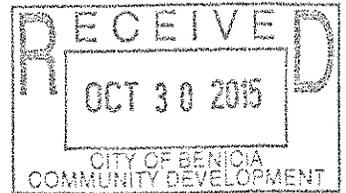


Greetings Ms.Million:

I am appalled at the thought that trains carrying crude oil will soon be regularly passing through our very popular and populated downtown, and especially passing by several schools and UCD. Given the history of devastating crude oil-by-rail spills it is unfathomable to me--and many of us--that a proposal that would put an entire population at such risk is legal. I trust you will put the safety and well-being of thousands of people ahead of financial interest and do everything in your power to prevent the possibility of an oil train disaster here in our own backyard. Our fate is largely in your hands.

Thank you,  
Diane Simon

Sent from my iPhone



**TO: Amy Million**

**SUBJECT: Vote NO on Valero's Crude by Rail proposal**

*Please add my comments to the public legal record on Valero's Crude By Rail Project and incorporate them as part of the review of the RDEIR.*

I strongly oppose Valero's proposal to bring Bakken Crude oil into Benicia by train. The environmental and human impact is highly negative, as proven by horrifying prior explosions. The means of transport is totally unsafe. All people, wildlife, nature in general are at risk anywhere around the path of these unsafe trains, tracks, and the volatile oil.

When we say Benicia is a "Main Street" City, I don't believe we imply a city that is overrun by the oil industry, putting all our lives at risk. I don't believe we mean a city that has very poor air quality, traffic jams due to oil trains, and again, constant danger to anyone living in or visiting our city. Why would people continue to want to move to or stay in Benicia for the good schools when the schools and the town as a whole, are in danger from derailed oil trains?

In short, Valero's proposal flies in the face of common sense, not to mention "derailing" compassion and commitment for the best interests of the people and environment of California and the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Sky".

146 Carlisle Court  
Benicia, CA 94510

CC:

- 1.) Brad Kilger, City Manager: [bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 2.) Amy Million, Principal Planner, Community Development Department: [amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us).
- 3.) Planning Commissioners via Brad Kilger and Amy Million
- 4.) Mayor Elizabeth Patterson: [epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:epatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us)

Carole Sky

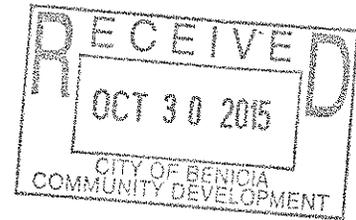
Page | 1

- 5.) Vice Mayor Tom Campbell: [tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:tcampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 6.) Council Member Mark Hughes: [mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:mhughes@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 7.) Council Member Alan Schwartzman: [aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:aschwartzman@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 8.) Council Member Christina Strawbridge: [cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:cstrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us)
- 9.) Benicia Herald Editor: [beniciaherald@gmail.com](mailto:beniciaherald@gmail.com)
- 10.) Vallejo Times Herald Editor: [opinion@timesheraldonline.com](mailto:opinion@timesheraldonline.com)

## Amy Million

---

**From:** SmithFamily <smithdandy@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 12:13 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Crude by rail DEIR comment



Dear Ms. Million,

My name is Dan Smith, and for 20 years my wife and I have owned and lived in a home at 365 Military East, just a couple of miles from the proposed rail terminal.

I strongly oppose the project because I believe history shows that the rail industry is not sufficiently prepared to handle the proposed increased in shipping crude oil by rail. The tanker cars currently in use derail far too often and have exploded more than once, sometimes resulting in loss of life.

Additionally, climate change necessitates that we decrease our dependency on fossil fuel. I admit that I drive a car and use said fuel, but I do not think we should accommodate increased usage and refining with such projects as this one and the proposed XL pipeline. I would rather take the bus.

I served on the Benicia City Council and Economic Development Board and am well aware of our city's dependency on taxes from Valero. This does not mean, however, that we should increase the health risks posed by having a refinery in town, just to protect their profits and our tax base. Safety of our citizens should be the City's number one priority. If people believe we need this project to adequately fund our police and fire departments, perhaps we should consider contracting with the county for these public safety services, rather than taking unnecessary industrial risks.

Sincerely,

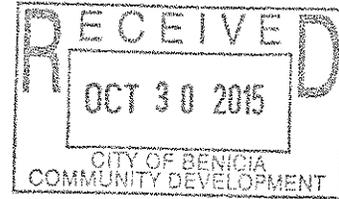
Dan Smith

SmithFamily  
smithdandy@aol.com

## Amy Million

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**From:** Peter Stanzler <stanzler@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 5:46 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Oil by rail



Ms Million,

I can't tell you how opposed I, along with members of our small community of Slatter's Court, am to the proposed oil trains that may come through Davis, CA. We live right along the tracks on the outside of the curve where the tracks go through downtown. A derailment of highly flammable light crude at this curve (we hear the brakes squeal as they take it) would completely destroy our community along with the adjoining mobile home parks and apartment buildings possibly killing hundreds of us. There will be no secrecy about these trains. We will see them, we will hear them, my own place will tremble as it has when other industrial trains roll through. Why should we sweat every time an oil train rolls through to satisfy the needs of Benecia and greedy oil companies?

Given the fact that there has already been many derailments, along with the one that destroyed Lac-Megantic, this is WAY TOO DANGEROUS and what for? Greed. You know and I know this oil isn't for us, it's meant for export. And please, don't tell us it "provides jobs". We call bullshit on that. For what, 50-100 people? They can get jobs mounting solar panels to help offset global warming due to the burning of fossil fuels instead.

Sincerely,  
Peter Stanzler

P.S. You can anticipate people protesting in the streets of Davis if this goes through. I already know many many people who are interested.

## Amy Million

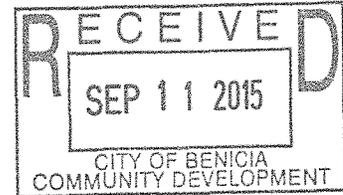
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**From:** dstrobel3 <dstrobel3@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2015 10:44 AM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail

I am opposed to the increase oil train traffic to Valero in Benicia.  
The oil cars are sub standard hence unsafe for the task...but the biggest factor for me is that the oil companies are terrible at clean up!!  
This has been proven time and time again!  
The risk to public safety is greater than the benefits to the same public!!

Pax doug strobel

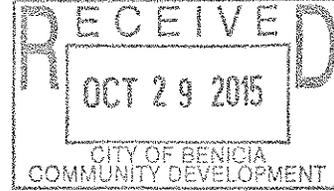
Sent from my LG Escape™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



## Amy Million

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**From:** Gregory Swan <d.schwane@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 4:13 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment on Valero RDEIR



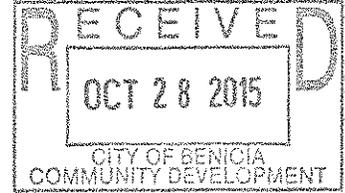
Just writing to add our voice to that of the many other Benicians who are very concerned about the possibility of trains rolling through our community carrying highly flammable and dirty crude oil. We are absolutely opposed to this disastrous plan! The danger to our community and the negative effect crude by rail will have on property values and our already compromised air quality (from Valero and other oil refineries in the area) are not worth the insignificant benefits trumpeted by the oil companies. A few jobs don't make up for the risks and costs of this ill-advised project. We will stand with our fellow informed Benicians and folks from other potentially affected communities to fight this terrible idea until it is dead and will be ever vigilant to ensure it is never resurrected.

Sincerely,  
Gregg & Leslie Swan

## Amy Million

---

**From:** Anne Syer <syer@omsoft.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 6:34 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** No oil trains through Davis, CA



Dear Ms. Million,

We are very concerned about the plans to send two trains belonging to Valero Refinery through Davis every day. This is simply unsafe and irresponsible. Given the tragedies that have already happened and the poor condition of train tracks in California, it is just wrong to plan to bring these trains through such densely populated areas. Please find another way. We hope you will do the right thing.

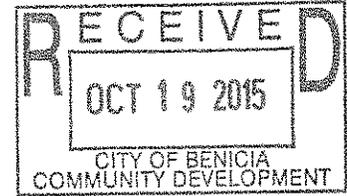
Sincerely, Anne and John Syer

Sent from my iPhone

## Amy Million

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**From:** Linda Wallis <beniciaruby@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 11:10 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Comment for the record - Valero Crude By Rail



Dear Amy.... I DO NOT WANT THOSE DANGEROUS TOXIC OIL TRAINS IN BENICIA. And also that crap being refined in Benicia. I have worked at Valero Refinery as a pipe welder. I know they don't fix anything until something goes wrong. It's all about the money. And also, Valero never hires local union members. They would rather hire contractors from out of state. Haven't you noticed the out of state welding rigs that drive around town with licence plates from Texas OK, and Oregon? I always talk to them. They take the money and drive back to the states they're from.

I know a friend who worked at Valero when it was built. He told me that he is suprised it hasn't blow up yet!!!! It's an accident waiting to happen!! WHY SUBJECT THE PEOPLE TO WORSE AIR ETC.ETC.? The people of Benicia do not want this crap!!!

BTW: DON'T YOU KNOW THE TOXIC OIL THEY WANT TO REFINE WILL BE SOLD TO CHINA? ALSO, DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHILDREN OF BENICIA HAVE FOUR TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF ASTHMA?

Listen to the people Amy, and not Valero!!

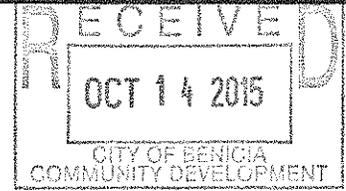
Ruby Wallis retired pipe welder.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android <<https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/mobile/?src=Android>>

## Amy Million

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**From:** Carol Weed <carol4ofa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2015 7:58 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Say no to Valero



Hello Amy Million,

Please don't invite sit-ins or lie-ins or other civic unrest by approving ANY plan for Valero to build an oil off-loading facility in Benicia. The disruption to our economy will likely offset any financial gains the project supposedly could bring.

And with the recent sharp drop in the value of oil and the international competition undercutting Valero's potential profits -- we could find we're stuck with another abandoned Brownfield site in a few years.

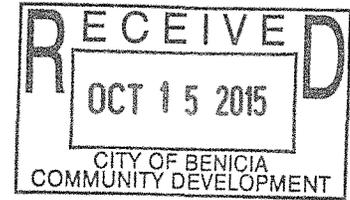
Don't do it. Please.

Thank you,  
Carol Weed, MD

## Amy Million

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**From:** Rosalie Wohlfromm <rwohlfromm@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:51 AM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Valero terminal  
**Attachments:** Oil Trains.docx



I am writing you today to please vote no to Valero's request. I am attaching my reasons why.

Rosie Wohlfromm

No to proposal that would bring oil through Auburn AJ 10/15/15

Do you remember back in 2013, when there was a train derailment carrying crude oil in Lac-Megantic, Quebec? That incident resulted in a fiery explosion and caused the death of 47 people.

It has been reported that crude oil from North Dakota and Canada into California would be expected to rise from just 1% of total oil imports in 2013 to 25% by 2016, according to state energy officials. This oil would travel by rail through densely populated areas to refineries on the coast. One of these routes is right through our town of Auburn. We could see trains pulling 100 oil tanker cars going past our homes, schools and parks.

Since 2013 we have heard of numerous derailments causing evacuations of citizens from their homes. One of the latest being last February in Lynchburg, Virginia. It is now known that the cause of the derailment was due to a broken rail which was missed in two previous inspections.

Oil giant Valero wants to build a massive terminal for oil trains at its Benicia refinery. Union Pacific runs from Reno via Donner Pass, a dangerous route that, according to the EIR for Valero Crude By Rail Project, has only 3.5% of Class 4 or 5 track, the quality deemed by the US Dept of Transportation necessary to support daily travel of extremely heavy unit trains made up of over 100 tank cars loaded with crude oil.

The City of Benicia is currently in the process of approving or rejecting the Valero Refinery's proposed CBR Project, which would permit Union Pacific to haul crude oil through Auburn. If this project is approved, Auburn could see oil trains loaded with highly flammable oil from North Dakota running right through our town on their way to Benicia. I ask you to remember what happened in Lynchburg. That could happen here.

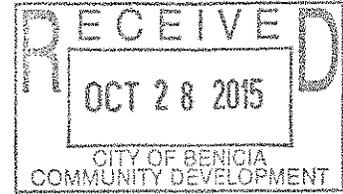
Concerned citizens of Benicia are asking for those of us along the rail lines to call or write the City of Benicia City Manager, Brad Kilger, 250 E.L. Street, Benicia CA 94510 or e-mail him at [bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:bkilger@ci.benicia.ca.us).

Please submit your comments by October 30, 2015.

## Amy Million

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**From:** Laura Zucker <bounce@list.credoaction.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 5:08 PM  
**To:** Amy Million  
**Subject:** Reject Valero's dangerous oil trains project



I urge the Planning Commission and the Benicia City Council to reject Valero's dangerous plan to build an oil trains terminal at its Benicia refinery. In light of the current drought and massive wildfires, we can't afford a project that would further global warming (by supporting fracking and tar sands extraction) and exposes communities along the rail route to the likelihood of an oil train derailment and explosion. Your decision has global dimensions; it doesn't just affect Benicia. Do the right thing and reject Valero's proposed crude by rail project.

Laura Zucker  
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