

From Davis to Benicia: Lives are on the Line

Presented to the City of Benicia
Planning Commission regarding
Valero Crude by Rail Project

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The Project vs Davis

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts (Impacts without Mitigation Measures)

The EIR identified 11 significant and unavoidable impacts related to

- Air Quality (5)
- Biological Resources (1)
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (2)
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials (3)

The EIR concludes that these 11 potential significant environmental impacts are beyond the City's authority to regulate or mitigate. These impacts would result exclusively from the transport of materials for the Project by rail and the City is preempted from mitigating those impacts.

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Planning Commission Staff Report
City of Benicia
January 6, 2016

Oil Train Passes near Yolo Bypass Wildlife Refuge



Photo by Frances Burke

Oil Train Passes over Yolo Bypass



Photo by Susan Rainier, May 20,
2015 7:00 pm

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Refuge

- On Interstate 80, between Davis and Sacramento
- Covers 25 square miles, is home to nearly 200 species of birds
- In the heart of one of the richest agricultural areas in the U.S.
- Yolo Bypass provides a direct path for Sacramento and Feather River flows to enter the Sacramento River Delta.
- 500,000 residents of Contra Costa County receive their water from the Delta.(Restore the Delta)
- Supports 38 special-status wildlife species, and many more are locally rare or have specialized habitat requirements that the Wildlife Area provides.
- Provides seasonal or permanent aquatic habitat for 44 species of fish, 8 of which are special-status species.
- Special-status wildlife species are legally protected or are otherwise considered sensitive by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. Special-status wildlife species that occur or have the potential to occur on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area include 5 species of invertebrates, 2 species of reptiles, 2 amphibian species, 32 species of birds, and 2 mammal species.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Land Management Plan (LMP) for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area)
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Planning/Yolo-Bypass-WA>

Davis

- From US Census for 2010
- Square miles – 9.89
- Persons per square mile - 6,637.2
- 2010 population - 65,611

Davis in the Blast Zone

Within .5 miles of tracks are Interstate 80, many senior and low-income housing projects, a convalescent home, the Davis Police Department, almost the entire of downtown Davis, some student housing at UCD, the Mondavi Performing Arts Center and the new Shrem Museum. All have increased exposure to air and noise pollution from oil trains as well.

Union Pacific RR tracks in Davis



In 2003, two trains collided along this set of tracks. Two cars were derailed, fortunately both were empty. It tied up Amtrak travel for quite some time.

Lac Megantic Blast Zone over Davis



Oil Train on Picnic Day, April 18, 2015



Photo by Richard McAdam

Picnic Day in Davis

- Is believed to be the largest student-run event in the nation.
- Attracts as many as 100,000 visitors to UC Davis
- The day's festivities begin with a parade from campus to downtown and back to campus.
- Note the oil train passing behind parade goers during Picnic Day 2015.

The Davis Enterprise, January 27, 2016

Train Tracks - UC Davis



From the City of Davis

Davis requests that Benicia reject the adequacy of the FEIR, decline to certify the FEIR, and send it back to staff to fully analyze mitigation measures for safety, as set forth in the Davis' and SACOG's earlier letters...

It is the obligation of public agencies to safeguard all their communities to the best of their abilities.

February 3, 2016

From Yolo County Supervisors

In light of the significant impacts identified in the Revised DEIR, we ask that the City of Benicia reconsider its position on preemption and not approve the project until the impacts are mitigated... Without these mitigation measures in place, the project should not be approved.

January 26, 2016

From SACOG

We appreciate that the City finally acknowledges the substantial risk to our region resulting from the crude oil shipments. However, the FEIR still fails to adopt a single mitigation measure to address the impacts of the Project and the FEIR fails to adequately respond to our letters.

February 4, 2016

SLO Staff Recommendation on Similar Phillips 66 Refinery Request

“There is a lack of specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the Project that outweigh the significant effects on the environment, as would be required to approve the Project pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.”

Department of Planning and Building Staff Report
San Luis Obispo County
January 25, 2016

Oil Train Protesters in Davis



July 11, 2015

Photo by Richard McAdam