



May 6, 2024

Susan Strachan
Decommissioning Manager
San Luis Obispo County
Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR for the Santa Maria Refinery

Demolition and Remediation Project: Conservation of the 630-acre "Buffer Area" as Mitigation for Impacts

Dear Ms. Strachan:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Santa Maria Refinery's Demolition and Remediation Project. Surfrider Foundation supports protections of unique coastal dunes and habitat. We write in support of Friends of Oso Flaco's letter with the same intent. In their letter, they state:

"The draft EIR includes a detailed list of impacts related to the demolition and remediation of the project site. But what it doesn't offer is mitigation that would have lasting significance for the community and for the unique and fragile dune environment (referenced in the draft EIR) that surrounds the project site. For that reason, we suggest that mitigation for impacts be in the form of permanent land conservation, and specifically the conservation of approximately 630 acres located within the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery parcels, west of the Union Pacific Railroad, and east of the Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area. This land has been called the "Buffer Area" by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other environmental and community groups."

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B.W. Snook". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brad Snook

Program Coordinator, Know Your H2O

Surfrider Foundation, San Luis Obispo Chapter