

Ibarra, Angel

From: Swiecki, John
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2016 8:25 AM
To: Ibarra, Angel
Subject: FW: Crude by Rail News - Benicia and Beyond

[For distribution- thanks](#)

From: Dana Dillworth [mailto:earthhelp@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 9:48 PM
To: Spediacci, Sheri; O'Connell, Terry; Swiecki, John
Subject: Fwd: Crude by Rail News - Benicia and Beyond

Please enter into the public record record for the Baylands deliberations and distribute to ALL city council members and planning commissioners.

This speaks to my request that we be careful of open-ended definitions of "rail-related activities" and even consider passing a moratorium on rail transport and storage of crude and hydrocarbon byproducts in Brisbane. Thank you.

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Benicia Independent <rogmail@beniciaindependent.com>
Subject: Crude by Rail News - Benicia and Beyond
Reply-To: The Benicia Independent <rogmail@beniciaindependent.com>

The Benicia Independent ... News & Action on Valero
Crude By Rail

Is this email not
displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

August 19, 2016

**A quick summary of
oil train news in the
last two weeks...**

Crude By Rail in the news...

- [Oil train safety an issue in Washington gubernatorial debate](#) August 19, 2016
- [North Dakota pipeline construction halted until court date](#) August 18, 2016
- [Oil firms dig deep to battle Colo. anti-fracking initiatives](#) August 18, 2016
- [Maine's Right-to-Know Advisory Committee to reconsider hiding oil train data](#) August 18, 2016
- [Exxon, other refineries affected as Louisiana waters rise](#) August 17, 2016
- [Lifting of trade restrictions has expanded crude oil's reach](#) August 17, 2016
- [EPA says oil train operator violated federal Clean Air Act at Albany facility](#) August 17, 2016
- [Spokane City Council Nixes Proposed Oil And Coal Train Ballot Measure](#) August 17, 2016
- [New Economic Study Shows CEQA Protects Environment without Stunting Economic Growth](#) August 16, 2016
- [LATEST DERAILMENTS: A 3rd in Selkirk Railyard in less than 2 months, and 1 in Arkansas](#) August 16, 2016
- [DESMOGBLOG: Science advisors tell EPA not to downplay fracking-related water contamination](#) August 15, 2016
- [Phillips 66 oil-by-rail project may be in jeopardy – deadline Aug 15](#) August 13, 2016
- [U.S. Government Just Approved an Enormous Oil Pipeline](#) August 13, 2016
- [Oil industry desperate: claims oil spills are good for wildlife and the economy](#) August 13, 2016
- [NPR: In The Pacific Northwest, Oil Train Derailment Highlights Potential Dangers](#) August 13, 2016
- [Feds award \\$1.1M in Minnesota for "Positive Train Control" upgrade](#) August 12, 2016
- [Petition: Ban Oil Trains For Good](#) August 11, 2016
- [Valero, other refiners spend more on U.S. clean fuel standards, look for savings through exports](#) August 11, 2016
- [BNSF, Union Pacific lawsuit: claims California's new rail hazmat fee illegal](#) August 11, 2016
- [PUBLIC RADIO: The Best Of A Worst Case Scenario: How Bad Could The Mosier Oil Train Spill Have Been?](#) August 10, 2016
- [Nearly a year and a half later: Here's why Gogama's Makami River 'will never be pristine](#)

Below are a few lead stories. At left below are quick links for other recent oil train and climate news - read on.

Benicia Independent Editor, Roger Straw

FED REPORT: Many railroads making little progress on installing safety systems required by Congress

[Editor: Important for Benicia/Valero/Union Pacific: "Progress varies considerably by railroad. For example, BNSF has equipped 4,309 of its 5,000 locomotives, but Union Pacific has equipped only 13 of its 5,656 locomotives." - RS]

By Joan Lowy, Associated Press, 8/17/16

WASHINGTON — **Many commuter and freight railroads have made little progress** installing safety technology designed to prevent deadly collisions and derailments despite a mandate from Congress, according to a government report released Wednesday. [\[MORE...\]](#)

Three local letters

Benicia's future is with Patterson, Young and the new economy

By Grant Cooke, Benicia Herald, 8/17/16

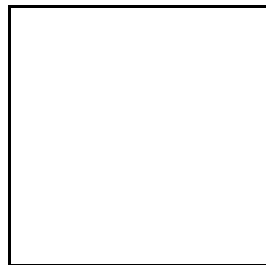
If Valero's crude-by-rail, or CBR, project goes through, it will do irreparable damage to Benicia. [\[MORE...\]](#).

- [again'](#) August 10, 2016
- [BNSF ad campaign: fining oil train companies illegal, won't solve future problems](#) August 8, 2016
- [Trump energy policy: more fossil fuels, less regulation](#) August 8, 2016
- [Vancouver oil terminal hearings wrap up, decision expected late 2016](#) August 7, 2016
- [GOP Establishment ties to the stalkers harassing Bill McKibben and Tom Steyer](#) August 7, 2016

Read up, stay informed, speak up!

The Benicia Planning Commission's strongly worded Feb 18 RESOLUTION denying Valero's project can be found [here](#).

The FINAL DRAFT Environmental Impact Report on Valero Crude By Rail and other related documents are posted on the [City's website](#). A complete listing is also available on the [Benicia Independent](#). Your letters and those of experts, public agencies and organizations may be viewed on BenIndy's [Project Review page](#).



ORGANIZING NOTES

Yard Signs and more...

This isn't over yet! We need to continue talking to our neighbors and City officials.

You can still [order a yard sign here!](#)
 (PLEASE NOTE: if your sign is stolen or vandalized, please report it to the Benicia police & write to info@safebenicia.org. They want to know, and will be happy to replace your sign.)

Please make a donation for the work of SafeBenicia on [GoFundMe...](#)
...and check

Questions about Valero's operating capacity

By Grant Cooke, Benicia Herald, 8/10/16

Regarding the recent letter by Valero's environmental manager, Kimberly Ronan. The letter writer complains that there were inaccuracies in a previous letter written by Kathy Kerridge that pointed out that data from BAAQMD indicated that Valero was refining about 65% of its capacity. This clearly begs lots of questions that one would like to ask the refinery. [\[MORE...\]](#)

Bay Area Air Board needs to step up for cleaner air

By Michelle Pellegrin, Vallejo Times-Herald, 08/04/16

There are 24 people in the Bay Area with the power to regulate the air we breathe. Their decisions cause or reduce asthma, cancer and other illnesses that can and have resulted in death. [\[MORE...\]](#)

Phillips 66 seeks six-month delay in San Luis Obispo rail spur hearing

By Chris McGuinness, New Times, 8/18/16

The oil company proposing one of SLO County's most controversial projects is asking the SLO County Planning Commission to wait six months before taking up the issue again.

After months of lengthy hearings, Phillips 66 requested that a planned commission meeting on its proposed rail spur extension project scheduled for Sept. 22 be pushed back until March

out the [SafeBenicia Store](http://cafepress.com/safebenicia) (cafepress.com/safebenicia), where you can buy a t-shirt, coffee mug or other cool STOP Crude By Rail paraphernalia.

CALENDAR

Valero APPEALED the **Planning Commission's unanimous decision to deny their Crude By Rail proposal**. The appeal is being heard by Benicia's City Council. Council hearings began on March 15 and continued on April 4, 6, 18 and 19. [On April 19, the City Council accepted Valero's request for a DELAY](#). **Additional hearings will continue in September**. All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chamber, 250 East, L Street, Benicia.

We have work to do - STAY TUNED AND STAY ACTIVE!

Benicia **Planning Commission** hearings on Valero's Crude by Rail proposal ended on February 11, 2016. The Commission decided the EIR was inadequate, and voted to deny issuing a use permit. You can download the Commission's [Resolution to Deny](#).

Benicia City Council meetings are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Council members' names can be found [here](#).

Copies of Council Agendas and Minutes are available [here](#).

The Benicia Planning Commission normally meets on 2nd Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Names of our Planning Commissioners, agendas and minutes can be found [here](#).

- **Benicia Independent Editor, Roger Straw**

2017.

The move comes as the company waits for a decision by federal regulators on another controversial proposal also involving oil-carrying trains in the Northern California city of **Benicia**.... [\[MORE...\]](#)

MOSIER OR: High levels of benzene in groundwater after oil train crash

[Editor: Significant quote: "The concentration that we found (of benzene) was 1,800 parts per billion, which is approximately ten times higher than a screening level for what would concern us for animals living in a wetland." - RS]
By Sara Jerome, Water Online, 8/15/16

A town in Oregon is still reeling from a train derailment two months ago, discovering the crash leaked oil into the groundwater supply.

A Union Pacific oil train derailed in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge in June, raising concerns about nearby water service and knocking the wastewater system completely out of function in the town of Mosier. **In the aftermath of the initial crisis, officials are facing down water contamination**, seeking treatment remedies for lingering pollution. [\[MORE...\]](#)

IN MEMORIAM: Benicia's Joel Fallon: Is Crude by

Rail really do or die?

Re-posted 8/14/16 in memory of Benicia's first and most beloved Poet Laureate, Joel Fallon, who died on August 11, 2016. Joel was an inspiration to all who knew him and a thoughtful, visionary activist. This call for rejecting Valero's Crude by Rail proposal appeared in the Benicia Herald and the Benicia Independent in April 2014.

IS THIS REALLY ADIOS?

By Joel Fallon, 4/25/14

WHAT AM I MISSING HERE? Are Benicians just kittens in a burlap sack, down by the riverside, resigned to the inevitable?

Let's see if I've got this right. ([MORE...](#))

Dakota Access pipeline to upend oil delivery in U.S. – Losers to include struggling oil-by-rail industry

By Catherine Ngai and Liz Hampton, Reuters, 8/12/16

It may seem odd that the opening of one pipeline crossing through four U.S. Midwest states could upend the movement of oil throughout the country, but the Dakota Access line may do just that. ([MORE...](#))

County Emergency Moratorium Stops All New Unrefined Oil, Coal, and LNG Export Projects

By Samantha Wohlfeil, Bellingham Herald, 8/10/16

BELLINGHAM > **No new applications to ship unrefined fossil fuel through Cherry Point can be approved** for at least the next two months after **Whatcom County Council** passed an emergency moratorium Tuesday night, Aug. 9.

The council unanimously passed the moratorium to address concerns about potential public health and safety risks that could come with the increased transportation of unrefined fossil fuels, such as crude oil traveling by rail through the county to two refineries at Cherry Point. ([MORE...](#))

California pushes to extend its groundbreaking Global Warming Act

San Francisco Chronicle editorial, 8/8/16

Ten years after California passed AB32, our landmark law to fight climate change, the Legislature is being pushed to pass its successor. SB32, envisioned as the logical next step in California's push, would set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030.

It should have been an easy ask. ([MORE...](#))

<-- MORE OIL TRAIN NEWS

VALERO CRUDE BY RAIL

For a detailed AND UPDATED background on Valero's proposal 2012-present, see The Benicia Independent's [VALERO CBR BACKGROUND](#). Also see [CITY OF BENICIA - VALERO CRUDE BY RAIL](#).

BENICIANS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

On the web: [SafeBenicia.org](#)
Facebook: [facebook.com/stopcrudebyrail](#)
To order a **yard sign** and/or **volunteer**, [go here](#).
For **upcoming events**, [go here](#).
CONTACT: Andrés Soto, (707) 742-3597
info@SafeBenicia.org

