

Diana Gorgon

Hi, this is Diana Gordon, and I'm against building this refinery for many reasons. Just last week, I thought we were in the midst of a climate crisis. The East Coast was dealing with early and damaging hurricanes and flooding, and the West Coast was coping with historic drought fueling climate wildfires. Here in my neighborhood, we were surrounded by fires and smoke. The air was not fit to breathe. Exercise and working in the garden was not a good idea. Even walking the dog just a few minutes necessitated wearing a face mask.

The second SSEIS for the refinery estimates that at least 4.6 million tons of greenhouse gas would be released every year. That seems like a huge amount to me. We know that greenhouse gases worsen climate change. Here in the West, climate change has created hot and dry conditions, making our forests sitting ducks for wildfires. In addition, greenhouse gases make our oceans more acidic and warm our rivers, impacting our seafood producers and tourism, both important sources of jobs and income.

Climate change also affects our health and quality of life. This refinery has too many problems and too few benefits. A few people may get good permanent jobs, but most of the profits will be scooped up by the Canadians and the Chinese. We are left with a large explosive refinery in the midst of potential wildfire hazards and huge increases in climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions.

This would be a good time to say no to this project and encourage the port and the county to seek new businesses to move into the area. A diversity of businesses will help guard against economic downturns, employ more people per acre, and we hope, be more climate-friendly. Please deny the shoreline permit and stop this untenable project. Thanks.