

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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Date: September 22, 1999

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

From: Jaime Kooser, Deputy Director  
Alison Dettmer, Manager, Energy and Ocean Resources Unit  
Ellen Faurot-Daniels, Supervisor, Oil Spill Program

SUBJECT: **Guadalupe Oil Field Spill Remediation Status Report – October 1999**

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**Staff Note:**

*Previous status reports have provided a brief history of the Unocal Guadalupe oil spill, past Coastal Commission involvement (including emergency permits issued), current ongoing remediation activities and future remediation activities and permitting requirements. This status report provides an account of cleanup and remediation activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period August 26 – September 22, 1999.*

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**ONGOING SITE ACTIVITIES, AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 22, 1999**

Work activity at much of the Guadalupe site continues at very low levels, pending acquisition of permits for work at several priority sites.

- Installation of fencing around the O13 phytoremediation site has been completed. Sand appears to be entering the site, partially burying some of the willow cuttings.
- Topsoil from the O13 site has been used to cover the exposed areas at the B3 site.
- Two small spills (ranging from one to a few gallons) happened during pipeline degassing and evacuation, and were immediately contained and cleaned up by Unocal.
- For the first time, California red-legged frogs were observed at the M4 wetland, east of the diluent-exposed portion that was temporarily filled in April, 1999. The nearest other known group of frogs is 2400 feet away, indicating that the frogs are moving around the site between different wetlands at this time of year.
- Botanical surveys along the A Road were conducted, in preparation for the disturbance from the road widening.

- A small portion of backdune habitat (3 feet x 15 feet) along the A Road was disturbed during pipeline removal.
- New sheetpile for the beach projects was hauled in, and cleaning of old sheetpile already stockpiled on site occurred.
- SAIC botanist Lauren Brown has suggested that specific information on the populations of La Graciosa thistle at the oil field should be initiated as soon as possible. Data collected at this time would be useful in determining the best timing for removal of material from the southern end of the Loop Road. Her specific suggestions are part of the Onsite Environmental Coordinator's September 17 Monitoring Report.
- Weed control within the 5X remediation area has begun.

#### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- Pipelines along the 8X road will be removed soon. Botanical concerns in this area include the presence of two state-listed plant species, surf thistle and beach spectacle-pod, as well as Blochman's leafy daisy, a California Native Plant Society List 1B species.
- Commission staff continue to work closely with Unocal in an effort to get the permit application for beach excavations within the Coastal Commission's retained permit jurisdiction written and heard during the November 1999 Commission meeting.