

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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# W16d

November 18, 1999

**TO:** Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Jaime Kooser, Deputy Director  
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**SUBJECT:** **Unocal Avila Beach Remediation and Rebuild Status Report**

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**Staff Notes:**

*In a report dated April 22, 1999, (prepared for the May, 1999, Commission meeting), Coastal Commission staff provided a brief history of the Unocal Avila Beach oil spill; past Coastal Commission involvement, including permits issued for spill characterization, containment or remediation; current ongoing remediation activities; and future remediation activities and permitting requirements. This status report provides updates on the most recent activities.*

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## ONGOING SITE ACTIVITIES, NOVEMBER, 1999

### 1.0 Summary of major cleanup activities at Avila this past month

Town Areas:

- Cell 3 (eastern town): Excavation is in progress.

Beach Areas:

- Unocal has completed beach excavation, backfill, and rebuild of the seawall. The only remaining activity is to replace the section of Avila Pier, which is scheduled for December.
  - Unocal applied to amend its permit (Immaterial Amendment No. E-98-13-A1) to use unwrapped piles pressure-treated with ACZA<sup>1</sup> instead of plastic-wrapped creosote-treated piles in pier replacement. Said immaterial amendment will be reported to the Commission at the December, 1999, meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> ammoniacal copper zinc arsenic, a wood preservative.

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Unocal has met its deadline to complete excavation and sheet pile removal on the beach by October 30. Unocal is scheduled to complete excavation of Cell 3 by the end of the year.

## **2.0 "Deferred Areas" of Contamination**

The RWQCB's Cleanup or Abatement Order (No. 98-37, April 3, 1998) does not address remediating certain "outlier" plumes. Establishing cleanup levels for these areas is deferred until the completion of additional studies and further site characterization.

- Unocal is working with agency staff to develop a workplan to further assess and delineate the inter- and subtidal plume;
- Unocal has arranged to meet with CCC staff to further discuss other deferred areas. Staff will keep the Commission updated activities in these other areas.

## **3.0 Front Street Enhancement Plan**

The Front Street Enhancement Plan as incorporated in the Local Coastal Program provides guidelines for improvements along Front Street. As cleanup activities are completed along Front Street, the street will be reconstructed in accordance with the Front Street Plan and the developing Specific Plan.

As reported to the Commission in previous updates, the County has approved Coastal Development Permits for Phase I and Phase II of the Front Street rebuild, which carry out streetscape and coastal access and recreation improvements called for by both the Front Street Enhancement Plan and the draft Specific Plan. The review and approval of the engineered plans for these improvements, pursuant to the conditions of these permits, is currently ongoing.

## **4.0 Specific Planning Process**

A primary tool that will guide the design and review of redevelopment in Avila Beach is the Avila Beach Specific Plan, the development of which has been closely coordinated with a wide range of interested parties, including Coastal Commission staff. On November 15, 1999, the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission approved the September 1999 Public Hearing Draft of the Specific Plan, and certified the associated Environmental Impact Report. The next step will be for the County Board of Supervisor's to review and approve the Plan, which is expected to take place in either December 1999 or January 2000. Upon adoption by the Board, the Specific Plan will be submitted for Coastal Commission review and approval as an amendment to the San Luis Obispo County Local Coastal Program. This is expected to occur in the Spring of 2000.

## **5.0 Disbursement of the Settlement Agreement Monies**

The Commission staff is working with the Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response ("OSPR") to disburse settlement monies held in trust by the OSPR per

the MOU that was entered into by the CCC and the OSPR on September 16, 1998. Specifically, the staff has been working with the OSPR to develop a process to solicit, review, and rank specific project proposals. The process is proceeding, and planned, as follows:

- In August and September, 1999, the agencies with jurisdiction over the use of the settlement funds developed one-page summaries of their application and review criteria;
- In early October, 1999, the County released a public mailer that explains the application and decision process, and includes the summaries;
- On October 14, 1999, a public workshop was held;
- The November 15 deadline for submitting restoration/mitigation project proposals has been extended until December 15, 1999;
- The Commission staff will inform the Commission of the proposals received for review and comment as part of the monthly updates;
- At a public workshop in February, 2000, agencies will present their initial rankings and draft restoration plan(s);
- In March, 2000, agencies will review the public's reaction to the initial ranking/draft plan(s);
- A subsequent public meeting may follow; and
- Final projects and restoration plan(s) will be chosen.

*H:/energy/unocallavila/ccc/ update written 11.18.99*