

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Date: July 22, 1999

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

From: Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
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SUBJECT: **Guadalupe Oil Field Spill Remediation Status Report – August 1999**

Staff Note:

In status reports prepared for the May, June and July 1999 Coastal Commission meetings, Coastal Commission staff 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. That background information is not repeated in this report. This status report provides a short account of cleanup and remediation activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period June 24-July 22, 1999.

ONGOING SITE ACTIVITIES, JUNE 24 – JULY 22, 1999

Work activity at much of the Guadalupe site has dropped considerably, pending the results of various studies, development of work plans, and acquisition of permits for work at several priority sites (including 5X).

- Work at the O13 phytoremediation (tree-planting) site has occurred. The smaller, more accessible of the two plumes has been excavated. Monitoring wells have been installed, backfilled soils are stabilized against erosion, fencing has been erected around part of the site, and about 800 willow trees were planted down-gradient from the larger, inaccessible plume.

- A draft report on the Ecological Risk Assessment of PCBs and other non-diluent compounds for the 5X site has been released to the Guadalupe mediation group. The group is in the process of reviewing and verifying the study results. A final report is due for release at the end of August. Preliminary indications are that the levels of PCBs and non-diluent compounds at the 5X site do not pose undue ecological risk. This determination may allow Unocal to begin excavation of at least a portion of the 5X plume this year. Unocal plans to modify its pending coastal development permit application to excavate the large 5X plume in two phases rather than one. Unocal is currently developing a work plan for this alternative 5X excavation scenario.

Future Activities

- Unocal will be meeting with Commission staff in early August to outline a work plan for restoration of the unpermitted "Loop Road" improvements at the A2A site, and for related and nearby infrastructure work that is preliminary to the full 5X excavation and restoration. This work plan will form the basis of a Unocal permit application to the Commission to address this restorative/preliminary work at both sites.