

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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Date: August 26, 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 – September 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 July 23 - August 25, 1999.*

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**ONGOING SITE ACTIVITIES, JULY 23-AUGUST 25, 1999**

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

- An Executive Summary and a Work Plan for assessing the ecological risks posed by PCBs and other non-diluent compounds have been completed for the 5X site. The assessment of ecological risk was developed through a multi-party mediation process that included representatives of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA, OSPR, USFWS and Unocal. The multi-party mediation group was responsible for review, critique, and final approval of the assessment. It was concluded that levels of PCBs and other non-diluent compounds at the 5X site do not pose undue ecological risk to biological resources. This determination allows

Unocal to continue its preparation of a coastal development permit application to excavate the 5X site.

- Tank and pipelines have been removed at site TB9. A small amount of oil (less than 1 gallon) was spilled but immediately contained and cleaned up.
- Seeds have been collected from seven native plant species, and there are plans to collect seeds from an additional five species in late August. The seeds will be used later for restoration projects.
- California red-legged frogs are prospering at several sites within the field. At site TB8, they have taken up occupancy in a shallow pool of water at the bottom of a concrete containment basin. The basin was slated to contain runoff from stockpiles of contaminated sediment. The U.S. EPA is consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on ways to safely remove and relocate the frogs.
- Coastal Commission staff met with Unocal, the agencies (USFWS, OSPR, SLO County) and the on-site environmental monitors for the County and the CCC to discuss: 1) options for restoration of the "Loop Road", and 2) whether the nearby "A" road should be widened to facilitate access to beach sites for the excavation activities that will be part of the Coastal Commission permit.
  - Unocal is now in the process of developing a project description for the Loop Road restoration, and will need to submit a separate coastal development permit application for this work.
  - Widening of the A Road (in lieu of further use of the Loop Road during beach excavation projects) will be addressed within the permit application covering all beach excavation projects (plumes and sumps at sites 5X, A2A South, A2A North, A5A, D14) within the Coastal Commission's retained permit jurisdiction.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- Unocal has proposed excavation of the large 5X site in two phases rather than one, and wishes to begin work this fall. 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 October or November 1999 Commission meeting. To date, the pending Unocal coastal development permit application is still substantially incomplete.