

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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February 24, 2000

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Jaime C. Kooser, Deputy Director
Alison J. Dettmer, Manager, Energy and Ocean Resources Unit
Dan Chia, Coastal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: **Guadalupe Oil Field Spill Remediation Status Report – March 2000**

Staff Note:

This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period January 25, 2000-February 21, 2000. Some of these are ongoing activities authorized under San Luis Obispo CDP/DP D870558D, and others began following Coastal Commission approval of CDP No. E-99-009 on November 3, 1999.

SITE ACTIVITIES, JANUARY 25, 2000-FEBRUARY 21, 2000**Activities Occurring in the Coastal Commission's Coastal Permit Jurisdiction****5X West Site**

- On February 10, Unocal contractors finished backfilling Cell 2 with borrow sand from the Q4 site.
- Approximately 48,200 cubic yards of material from Q4 was removed to backfill Cell 2.
- Unocal has replaced the native overburden on Cell 2 and by February 22, the entire 5X West site had been recontoured.
- Unocal plans on removing all fencing materials at the 5X site and has already removed all of the silt and construction fencing along the A Road.
- With the assistance of a crane, Unocal removed the 5X sheetpile "wing" that extended to the southeast from the original sheetpile wall. This activity was completed on February 15.

- Unocal is currently implementing a research plan at 5X to investigate microhabitat characteristics of suitable western snowy plover habitat. Unocal monitors are currently setting up a grid system on the site to determine how different site characteristics (i.e., nest height, exposure, and substrate density, etc) will affect snowy plover breeding success. Unocal has constructed 14 berms, approximately 120 feet long and three feet high, through the 5X site running northwest to southeast (the predominant wind direction) and will determine habitat use of the site during the regularly scheduled monitoring of breeding activities.

Loop Road Violation

- On February 23, 2000, Unocal submitted a coastal development permit application to (a) remove the road aggregate material Unocal placed on the "loop" road without a benefit of a coastal permit, and (b) implement a La Graciosa thistle restoration plan to mitigate for the loss of thistle caused by the unpermitted road improvement work. The application is currently incomplete.

Activities Occurring in San Luis Obispo County's Coastal Permit Jurisdiction

- Unocal contractors finished the installation of netting over the basin at B5A. This netting over the B5A basin now provides adequate coverage of the retention pond and an adequate barrier to red-legged frogs and other amphibians.
- Unocal contractors are currently working during any large rain event to ensure that retention ponds at the B5 and Land Treatment Unit (LTU) sites do not overflow. Under current conditions, vacuum trucks are required to vacuum water out of these two retention ponds and then empty water into the site recovery system at TB8. All activities occurring at night, which include repeated trips from the B5 and LTU retention ponds to the TB8 tanks, are accompanied by a Unocal wildlife monitor.
- Unocal completed moving the beach access corridor on the 8X site off to the north side of the pad (at the request of the On-site Environmental Coordinator (OEC)). The old pathway was raked and seed was spread over the disturbed area. Unocal has also begun to spread native seed at several other locations, including the bio-spargue well site and power pole disturbances along the B Road, that had major disturbances earlier in the year.
- Unocal has identified a sump material stockpile location west of Tank Battery 9 at the I11 and I11A pads. If allowed by the County, the pad sites will be used to stockpile as much as 21,000 cubic yards of contaminated sump material from the excavation of sumps along the beach. The sites will be lined with high density polyethylene (HDPE) and a shock-crete swale will be constructed around the stockpile to collect runoff. The total area of disturbance is 1.24 acres. Although the pad sites have been previously disturbed, each pad hosts some dune scrub vegetation, including ice plant and veldt grass. Four individuals of Dune mint have been identified in the center of the lower pad (I11A).
- Unocal has begun to take measures, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Biological Opinion, to relocate the California red-legged frogs at the TB8 retention pond. On January 31, Unocal wildlife biologists captured five red-legged frogs (four adults

and one juvenile) from the TB8 retention pond. Each adult frog was fitted with a radio-transmitter and a pit-tag, and one middle toe of a hind leg was clipped on each frog. Pit tags will allow biologists the ability to identify individual frogs if any are recaptured. Toe-clipping will allow biologists the ability to determine whether frogs had been previously captured even if radio-transmitters or pit tags fail. Radio-transmitters will allow biologists to track each frog's movement before and after a relocation. Each adult frog was then released back into the TB8 retention pond where it was monitored for a week.

