

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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April 20, 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 – May 2000**

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**Staff Note:**

*This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period March 11, 2000-April 13, 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.*

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**SITE ACTIVITIES, MARCH 11, 2000-APRIL 13, 2000****Activities Occurring in the Coastal Commission's Coastal Permit Jurisdiction****Loop Road Violation**

- The Commission staff is currently reviewing pending coastal development permit application E-00-003 submitted by Unocal to: (a) remove road base material placed in March 1998 on the Guadalupe oil field "loop" road and in adjacent wetlands, and (b) mitigate impacts to the La Graciosa thistle caused by the 1998 road improvement activities. The application is still incomplete. The Commission staff expect the application to be scheduled for the Commission's consideration at either the June or July meeting.

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

- Unocal's contractors have completed decommissioning and demolition efforts at the Compressor Plant facilities including the removal of several above ground pipelines and support stanchions.
- Unocal has initiated efforts to drain a 12-inch crude line that runs through the site. This activity is being conducted at several locations throughout the lease and is as part of a larger effort to identify and drain any large product lines at the site that may be leaking or have the potential to leak in the future. Unocal wildlife and botanical monitors inspected sites prior to off-road activities. The ultimate abandonment of these lines will take place at a later date. Approximately 13,000 gallons of fluid (roughly one-third crude oil and two-thirds water) was vacuumed from the 12-inch line.
- Diani Construction, a Unocal contractor, continues to repair roads throughout the lease, including the B Road where improvements are being made to prepare for the C8 excavation project. Asphalt and red rock material has been ripped up and removed, additional base material is added and compacted, then asphalt is laid down. Sensitive plant species in close proximity to the road have been flagged and temporarily covered with pots during roadwork. Unocal botanical monitors have surveyed some of the areas along the roads prior to roadwork and make periodic checks during the day while activities occur near sensitive plant species. Diani is also removing some of the asphalt previously laid down at the TB8 stockpile area to create channels so as to prevent rain from forming puddles at this site. Unocal plans to pave a small section (no more than 25 feet) of the ~~A Road at the A Road - B Road~~ intersection.
- Unocal is applying to the County for authorization to install two-3,000 bbl water handling tanks at the site. One tank is planned for the TB8 area in order to handle the additional storm water and runoff generated at TB9. The other tank is proposed to be installed at the Diluent Tanks area to in response to the increased need for fluid storage from the extraction system.
- Wildlife biologists have discontinued all nighttime California red-legged frog surveys of the TB8 and TB9 retention ponds now that the 5X Project is over. Some level of surveying may continue around the TB8 retention ponds to locate any migrating frogs. Unocal monitors have also discontinued their California red-legged frog telemetry surveys. Due to concerns over battery life, all transmitters were removed from the animals to avoid loss of equipment.
- Unocal conducted a trial run of the "beach cleaner" in order to evaluate its ability to remove amphibians from subsurface soils. The exercise was carried out using artificial rubber fishing worms as the target. Although the results proved promising for recovering the buried worms, Unocal's biologist, the OEC, and a County biologist collectively decided that exposure to the mechanical lifting and screening apparatus would cause an unacceptable level of trauma to the lizards. Several other options for legless lizard relocation are currently being considered for the C8 excavation.
- On Monday, March 27, Unocal contractors (The Source Group) began sump assessment work at various pad sites throughout the lease. Pot-holing at three pad sites was conducted using a rubber-tired backhoe. Several "potholes," approximately ten feet by 2 feet, were dug within the assumed sump location to characterize the size and composition of the sump material.