

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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July 20, 2000

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Jaime C. Kooser, Deputy Director
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Dan Chia, Coastal Program Analyst

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

Staff Note:

This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period June 20, 2000-July 14, 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, JUNE 19, 2000-JULY 14, 2000**Activities Occurring in San Luis Obispo County's Coastal Permit Jurisdiction****C8 Excavation**

- Diani Construction began excavating the C8 South cell on Monday, July 10 and has since completed the excavation. Eighty-four out of 85 bottom soil samples were non-detectable for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as of Thursday, July 13 (one sample had a level of 13 ppm TPH).
- Unocal began backfilling C8 South on Monday, July 17 after approval from the appropriate agencies. Unocal has requested and has received approval for the use of four backfill sources.

E4A Stockpile

- Unocal contractors continue to haul sand from the Q4 Borrow Site to the E4A stockpile area. Diani Construction is currently using six Volvo dump trucks to haul from Q4 to E4A. As of Monday, July 10, Diani had hauled approximately 82,440 cubic yards from the Q4 site to the E4A stockpile area. Unocal continues to spray the E4A stockpile with water as needed throughout the day to minimize sand movement.
- The stakes installed on the down-wind side of the E4A stockpile site are regularly monitored each week to determine sand movement on the stockpile site. These stakes are compared to stakes placed down-wind of a natural blowout immediately south of the E4A stockpile. Although Unocal is currently keeping the E4A stockpiled material sprayed with water, several of the monitoring stakes already show considerable sand movement. Two of the stakes show an increase of 9 and 13 inches of sand inundation. The natural blowout area does not show any noticeable change in sand movement over the same duration of time.

Other Activities

- Unocal contractors (KVS) began hauling contaminated material from the TB8 stockpile area and one of the stockpiles located at the TB9 area on Monday, June 26. Unocal plans on having approximately 20 dump trucks taking two trips per day (for a total of approximately 40 trips a day) to Buttonwillow for approximately 25 working days. Unocal will avoid traffic on Highway 166 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. each day.
- Unocal has completed installing 19 new wells (16 ground water wells and 3 soil/gas wells) at the O13 phytoremediation site. Unocal has collected approximately 975 new willow cuttings from the Santa Maria River to plant within the phytoremediation site. Surveys for yellow warblers and yellow-breasted chats (both California Species of Special Concern) were conducted in the area prior to activities. There were no sensitive bird species observed in the activity area. A single California red-legged frog was observed during the willow cutting but it was not disturbed by the activity. Unocal wildlife biologists will periodically monitor all activities near the Santa Maria River throughout the day.
- On Wednesday, July 5, Diani Construction began preparing the Land Treatment Unit (LTU) site for upcoming treatment studies on contaminated material. Unocal continues to remove the sand previously treated at this site, screen it, and test it to determine whether it can be used as backfill material. Unocal received approval from the Regional Water Quality Control Board on June 19, 2000 to use LTU-treated material at 700 ppm or less as backfill for the C8S cell. They subsequently used approximately 9260 cubic yards of this material as backfill.
- Unocal contractors continue to abandon pipelines south of the E4A area and near the P2 pad site. Unocal plans to mobilize a new pipeline abandonment contractor early next week to begin pipeline abandonment activities on the north side of the lease.
- Unocal monitors observed nine new snowy plover nests during the last week of monitoring.

Loop Road Violation

- Staff expects to schedule for the Commission hearing in September the 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.

