

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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September 20, 2001

**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 Third Quarterly Status Report: July-September 2001**

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*This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period July 2001-September 2001. 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, JULY 2001-SEPTEMBER 2001****Activities Occurring in the Coastal Commission's Permit Jurisdiction**

- Unocal monitors have completed breeding season surveys of western snowy plovers on the beach. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized Unocal to re-open the beach for Unocal personnel access. This past breeding season, Unocal monitored fifteen active nests on the lease. Over 60 nests have been observed this year, which is the most nests observed on the former oil field since snowy plover monitoring began in 1994.
- The use of snow fencing, jute netting, and the installation of rice straw plugs at the beach restoration sites appear successful in reducing the amount of sand blowing across the site, allowing for the stabilization of recreated dune features and the colonization of native dune species.

**Activities Occurring in the County's Permit Jurisdiction**

- Unocal has prepared a revised M12 work plan incorporating agency comments, including Coastal Commission staff. The work plan details the proposed remedial action Unocal will take to contain hydrocarbons that have periodically surfaced in a wetland area as the water table rises. The plan also incorporates stringent mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize potential impacts to sensitive resources, including delineation of construction

boundaries, pre-construction biological surveys, plant salvage and relocation, use of biological monitors and OEC oversight, and site restoration. Unocal will also have to comply with a Biological Opinion regarding the protection of federally listed species to be issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The County of San Luis Obispo plans to issue Unocal a substantial conformity determination, finding that the potential impacts of the interim remedial measures have been adequately considered and mitigated in the project's Environmental Impact Report.

- Unocal detected sump material at the ground surface near the C8 Restoration site. The visible portion of the contaminated area is approximately 20 by 20 feet. Unocal is preparing a work plan for submittal to the resource agencies that will address containment or removal of the sump material from this site.
- In response to Regional Water Quality Control Board comments (on a Unocal Waste Discharge Requirements application), Unocal has initiated construction and operation of a land treatment pilot study at the TB8 Stockpile Site. The intent of the study is to satisfy data gaps remaining from previous bench-scale and field pilot treatment tests on diluent affected sand. Unocal hauled approximately 1,500 cubic yards of clean blow sand (drifted windblown sand collected from roads) to the TB8 site to be used as a clean buffer beneath the contaminated material to be treated and approximately 40 cubic yards of clay to construct a liner for the treatment cells. Additionally, lysimeters to collect leachate from various depths within the treatment area. Unocal spread about three feet of contaminated material over the site and divided the area into treatment cells designed to receive different levels of watering and tilling.
- Due to old age and unreliability, Unocal has removed and replaced with new infrastructure old power poles and power lines. A total of 98 power poles have been removed and hauled off of the site. In addition, 85,000 feet of conductor cable and 5,000 feet of communication cable have been removed from the lease. Most of the poles and support anchors were removed using equipment parked on the side of paved roads.

### Other

- Unocal is required by the County to conduct regularly scheduled surveys of sensitive plant species. Unocal conducted surveys of surf thistle and beach spectacle pod in June 2001. Based on results from these surveys the estimated number of surf thistle observed this year has decreased to 3,831 individuals compared to from 5,103 recorded in 2000. The number of beach spectacle pod individuals increased from 2,488 individuals in 2000 to 4,066 individual plants observed in 2001. Unocal reports that no new populations of either species have been observed but that there has been a general aerial expansion of existing populations of both species. La Graciosa thistle surveys have not been completed throughout the lease.