

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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January 25, 2001

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Jaime C. Kooser, Deputy Director
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SUBJECT: **Guadalupe Oil Field Spill Remediation Status Report – February 2001**

Staff Note:

This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period December 12, 2000-January 22, 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.

As discussed below, Unocal has remediated most of the beach sites. Thus, any future work in the Commission's original permit jurisdiction will be minimal. Additionally, future remediation work within the County's permit jurisdiction is postponed pending approval of a soil treatment and handling plan by responsible agencies, including the Coastal Commission. The responsible agencies and Unocal have collectively concluded that due to the lack of an effective treatment option for contaminated soils that have already been excavated, future excavation activities should be suspended until viable options have been identified. Staff will now prepare these status reports on a quarterly basis instead of monthly due to this reduced level of activity.

SITE ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 12, 2000-JANUARY 22, 2001**Activities Occurring in the Coastal Commission's Permit Jurisdiction****Beach Sites**

- Unocal has finished excavating, backfilling, recontouring, and placing topsoil material at all of the beach sites (5X, 5X Road, and A2A) and is currently installing rice straw plugs for restoration efforts.

- Unocal plans to begin installing monitoring wells at 5X East next week. Unocal also proposes to install three rows of snow fence along the eastern half of the 5X site to reduce the threat of sand blowing across the site and into the Marsh Ponds.
- Unocal has completely removed all of the sheetpile from the beach.

Other Activities

- On January 18, 2001 Unocal removed 25 geobags located on the top of the bank of the Santa Maria River. Using an excavator and a front-end loader, Unocal contractors were able to remove all of the geobags on top of the bank. Due to the proximity of standing water within the Santa Maria River channel, Unocal did not remove geobags from within the river channel. According to the Onsite Environmental Coordinator, no sedimentation within the Santa Maria River or the Marsh Ponds resulted from this activity.
- On Wednesday, December 13, the rancher who occupies the land south of the Unocal Lease installed a fence near the D14 Pad site along the Santa Maria River to prevent cows from accessing the Unocal Lease from his property. However, cattle can still access parts of the lease from other corridors further inland.
- Unocal contractors continue to water the transplants on the Loop Road once a week or as needed. Most of the transplanted vegetation appears to have survived the period since the planting efforts in late November. Fencing installed (by the rancher) at the beginning of December to prevent cattle from entering the Marsh Ponds is reducing, although not completely eliminating, the number of cows accessing the site in the area of the Loop Road.

Activities Occurring in the County's Permit Jurisdiction

- Unocal began clean-up efforts at the U-12 Site on January 15, 2001. Unocal has removed the top two feet of material from the entire fenced site. In addition, two portions of the site have required deeper excavation. One of the contaminated areas consisted of crude oil-contaminated sand and was excavated to a depth of approximately eight feet. The second contaminated area consisted of diluent-affected sand and was excavated to a depth of approximately 12 feet.
- Unocal contractors began water management improvements at the TB9 site on January 16, 2001. Unocal excavated a portion of the site to install new drainage pipes and two eight-foot wide concrete vaults that will house a new pump system, thus eliminating the need for the retention pond to collect contaminated runoff (and inadvertently red-legged frogs). This runoff will be pumped to holding tanks and ultimately reinjected into deep wells. Unocal plans to have the new pumps operational by the end of next week and the retention pond backfilled (with screened material currently stockpiled at the LTU site) by February 6.