

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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May 24, 2001

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Jaime C. Kooser, Deputy Director
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SUBJECT: **Guadalupe Oil Field Spill Remediation Quarterly Status Report:
January-May 2001**

This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period January 22, 2001-May 10, 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.

SITE ACTIVITIES, JANUARY 22, 2001-May 10, 2001**Activities Occurring in the Coastal Commission's Permit Jurisdiction**

- In February 2001, Unocal's botanical staff completed restoration efforts at the Beach sites including seeding and erosion control at the LeRoy 6, 5X, A2A, and 5X Road sites.
- Currently, no project activities (except for monitoring) are permitted on the beach due to the snowy plover nesting season. There have been a total of 23 nests recorded to date on the beach with seven nests reported to have successfully hatched young.
- On April 26, 2001, the Coastal Conservancy accepted two Offers to Dedicate (OTD) easements on the project site. As a condition to coastal development permit 409-24 (granted by the South Central Coastal Regional Commission in January 1980) allowing Unocal to expand its oil field production operations, Unocal was required to record the OTDs--a public access easement along 1.6 miles of shoreline and an open space/ conservation easement covering approximately 350 acres of riparian and coastal dune habitat (covering most of the beach excavation sites)--to a public agency or private organization. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to ultimately accept and manage the easements as part of its Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge.

The agency-preferred option at this time involves the placement of clean sand over the surface contamination at the eastern end of the wetland during the dry season. This area is several feet away from any standing water during the dry season, allowing placement without risk of discharge to the surface water body. The fill would act as an additional vadose zone through which floating product would smear when the water level rises. This does not prevent contamination from reaching the surface water but the hope is that any floating product would remain entrained in the added fill until the water level subsides. Agencies are now analyzing this option in more detail.

Other

- While excavations are on hold, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWQCB") has requested that Unocal submit a comprehensive review of cleanup action effectiveness and an evaluation of potential exposure pathways, especially surface waters. The analysis is to include the effectiveness of cleanup technologies (*e.g.*, biosparging, phytoremediation, remediation by natural attenuation) employed at the site. The RWQCB has also requested a reevaluation of threats to surface water bodies, including a determination if water bodies continue to be impaired or threatened by known contamination.