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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEATHER AND WATER MAKE SPILL RESPONSE TOUGH

LOS ANGELES COUNTY--Rain and runoff increased the difficulty of containing and collecting oil that reached Bull Creek through a storm drain system following an accident involving a tank truck with trailer on Interstate 5 at State Route 14 around 2:15 a.m., December 13, 1995.

Boom originally placed across the creek to contain the oil, known as cutter stock, has been failing due to the rising water and fast currents. The Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) is on-scene with several oil spill cleanup contractors including Advanced Cleanup Technologies Incorporated, Ocean Blue, and Allwaste. The oil slick has spread to the Los Angeles River and is approximately 10 miles long. The OSPR and the contractors are working on an action plan to contain and cleanup as much oil as possible.

"Together we are working to cleanup the spill as quickly and safely as we can given the problems with the weather and rising water," said Captain Rod Simon, Inland Pollution Coordinator.

OSPR personnel spotted as many as 10 birds impacted by the oil, but rising waters and difficult weather has made capturing these birds unsafe at the present time. Personnel identified the impacted species as egrets, coots, a heron, and mallard ducks. Because some of impacted the area is a wetland habitat, OSPR personnel expect additional bird impacts. Efforts to rescue and treat impacted wildlife will continue.