



**OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Preparedness/Technical-Advisory-Committee>



*Meeting of  
Thursday, July 21, 2016  
9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.*

*California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 27  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109*

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

<i>TAC members</i>	<i>Agency Representatives</i>	<i>OSPR Participants</i>
Steve Ricks	Chris Beckwith, Calif SLC	Thomas M. Cullen, Jr.
John Berge	Jonathan Bishop, CCC	Janet Dias
R. Mitchel Beauchamp	LCDR Kristin Driscoll, U.S.C.G.	Eric Milstein
Jonna Mazet <i>(by phone)</i>		Steve Sawyer
Michael Ziccardi <i>(alternate to J. Mazet)</i>		Ryan Todd
Matt Rezvani		

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

*Captain Thomas Cullen, Jr., OSPR Administrator*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman*

A motion was made to approve the 2/24/16 Minutes as presented with no edits; seconded, and unanimously approved.

**3. OSPR UPDATE**

*Captain Thomas Cullen, Jr., OSPR Administrator*

*(report provided)*

Administrator Thomas Cullen, Jr. offered a brief update of each branch and program within the Office of Spill Prevention and Response, touching on a few highlights. Further updates can be found in the report provided.

- Alliso Canyon, otherwise known as Porter Ranch, methane blowout near Simi Valley - because of its expertise in the Incident Command System, OSPR is assisting DOGGR, Department of Conservation, and Cal OES on that situation.
- Plumas County wildfires – there were three major command posts, and up until a couple weeks ago OSPR was providing geographical information systems (GIS) support to help with the recovery and rescue support.
- Since June 23<sup>rd</sup> OSPR has also been responding to and supporting the Grove pipeline spill in Ventura County.

**4. REFUGIO AND VENTURA OIL SPILLS UPDATE**

*Captain Thomas Cullen, Jr., OSPR Administrator*

Refugio

We've not seen any positive samples this calendar year. All the beach segments are signed off. The only thing remaining is the cliff face which is expected to be completed by the end of December. The After Action Report is posted on OSPR's website at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=122847>.

Ventura/Grove Incident

June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Ventura, CA. After some testing on a section of pipeline/replacing a valve on a section of pipeline, the initial report was 2,000 barrels of crude oil was released into a 650 foot stretch of dry gully into a residential area two miles up from Santa Buenaventura State Beach and very close to Ventura High School. The gully feeds into an underground concrete storm drain which ultimately feeds two miles further down into the ocean. The oil did not reach the ocean. The spill estimates was downgraded to 500 barrels, and then stayed at 600 barrels for several weeks. Still going thru quantification. Investigation still ongoing. Updates on this spill can be found at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/CalSpillWatch>.

## 5. AGENCY BRIEFINGS

### *California State Lands Commission*

*(report provided)*

*Mr. Chris Beckwith*

- Changed name of Marine Facilities Division to Marine Environmental Protection Division to better reflect the missions of what their division does both on the oil spill prevention side as well as the invasive species aspect of what they do in preventing those from coming in because what they do now is much more than regulate the marine facilities in the state.
- Marine Environmental Protection Division in process of recruiting some key positions, including an Assistant Division Chief in engineering and planning.
- Preparing updates to regulatory packages as they relate to operations and pipeline testing and maintenance.
- Working on implementation of newly adopted strategic plan. As part of that plan, will be developing a Safety Management Systems Audit program, a more comprehensive inspection program of marine terminals.

### *California Coastal Commission*

*(report provided)*

*Mr. Jonathan Bishop*

- Refugio Oil Spill – Section 5 cliff face and bluff maintenance and monitoring are ongoing. A follow-up Coastal Development Permit application is due in September. Monitoring of the cliff face extended out to the end of the year.
- March 14-16 oil leaking out of a concrete box on McAbee Beach at Cannery Row in Monterey. This was a site of a sardine factory that was abandoned in the 1960's. A relic concrete fuel tank at the beach location daylighted above the sandy beach surface and slowly started to seep a heavy fuel oil product into the marine environment. Unified Command set up. Cleanup endpoints met on 3/16. Will be monitoring the site over time.

### *U.S. Coast Guard*

*(report provided)*

*LCDR Kristin Driscoll*

- 2014 Regional Contingency Plan for Region IX posted to <http://www.rrt9.org/go/doctype/2763/49383>.
- Regional Dispersant Plan and Regional In-Situ Burn Plan anticipated to be completed by end of this year.
- The next RRT 9 meeting in November in Reno will be more inland focused. Agenda on the website ([www.rrt9.org](http://www.rrt9.org))
- MEXUSPLAN and MEXUSPAC Annex: USCG will be in Mexico City in August to finalize the 2016 revision of the MEXUS Plan with the most significant modification being that Mexico will respond to spills in Mexico.
- International Oil Spill Conference will be May 15-18, 2017 in Long Beach (<http://www.iosc.org/>)
- LA/LB Area Contingency Plan has been signed and will be posted to the OSPR website shortly.
- MOU has been signed between OSPR/USCG/EPA concerning the handling of GIUE.

## 6. FUND CONDITION AND BUDGET UPDATE

*(report provided)*

*Ms. Janet Dias, OSPR Budget Analyst*

Ms. Janet Dias presented an overview for Fund Conditions 207, 320, 321, and 322. Fund conditions capture three prior fiscal years of actual revenues and expenditures (FY 12/13- FY 14/15) and three fiscal years of projected revenues and expenditures (FY 16/17- FY 18/19). For current fiscal year 16/17, revenues and expenditures were presented reflecting fiscal month 11 (May) actuals and projections through the end of May.

- Fund 207 – Fish & Wildlife Pollution Account: Expenses from this fund are only for non-oil events. Oiled events come from Fund 321. Starting balance was \$25,437.00. Received \$402,103.00 in civil fines which is higher than projected as was cost recovery from pollution cleanup. Ending balance: \$574,820.00.

- Fund 320 – Oil Spill Prevention & Administration Fund: Started out with a beginning balance of 22 million. Expenditures as of May are close to 26.5 million. OSPR is very close to filling all their positions
- Fund 321 – Oil Spill Response Trust Fund: Statewide oil program spill expenses are taken out of this fund. Started out with a balance of slightly over 8 million. Revenues are very high at 4 million which is a result of cost recovery thus far from the Refugio Oil Spill.
- Fund 322 – Environmental Enhancement Fund: Expenditures must be spent on restoration and coastal projects. Fines and penalties from all oil spills - marine and inland - are deposited here. This fund is very steady with a beginning balance of 1.3 million; expenditures for Fish and Wildlife of \$409,000 which is 75% of what projected. Ending balance is \$927,000.

**7. UPDATE ON VOO TASKFORCE**

*Mr. Stephen Sawyer, Advisor to the Administrator*

Certain provisions of SB414 (Government Code section 8670.55.1) direct the TAC to convene a taskforce to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of using Vessels of Opportunity in oil spill response planning. The Taskforce will finalize its recommendations to the TAC who in turn provides the Administrator and Legislature final recommendations by 1/1/17. The TAC shall, and if appropriate, the Administrator shall update regulations by 1/1/18 to provide inclusion of Vessels of Opportunity in oil spill programs. The VOO Taskforce has held two meetings. The next public meeting is next week at Bay Model in Sausalito. A report will go out for public comment and it is anticipated the Taskforce will finalize its recommendations to the TAC by this fall.

**8. REGULATIONS & LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

*Mr. Ryan Todd, OSR Senior Staff Counsel*

*(report provided)*

- OSPR is working on making the inland emergency regulations permanent. These consist of Contingency Plans, Certificates of Financial Responsibility, Drills and Exercises, Definitions, Oil Spill Response Organization Ratings, and the Oil Spill Prevention and Administrative Fund Fee. The Department of Finance is reviewing these closely. OSPR hopes to complete the regular rulemaking process by the end of this year.
- Last week at the federal level, PHMSA issued draft regulations for oil spill planning for railroads. These regulations are out for public comment for 60 days. OSPR does not have a position yet on these regulations.

**9. MERCER STUDY**

*Mr. Stephen Sawyer, Advisor to the Administrator*

*(report provided)*

Every plan holder that comes into California must have a Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR) sufficient to cover all cleanup costs and damages incurred as a result of a potential spill. The baseline figure was established in 1993 based on limited California spill data available at the time. Since the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act greatly expanded the definition of damages that responsible parties could be liable for, OSPR’s financial responsibility jurisdiction now covers non-tank vessels, railroads, pipelines, inland oil producers and inland facilities. OSPR feels the need to reconsider the minimum COFR requirements for plan holders.

**10. 2015-2016 TAC BIENNIAL REPORT**

*Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman*

Topic tabled for next meeting.

**11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS, NEXT MEETING**

*Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman*

Next TAC meeting to be scheduled sometime in October; location TBD, California.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned 2:45 p.m.