



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

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



*Meeting of
Tuesday, November 1, 2016
9:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.*

*San Francisco Bay Oiled Wildlife
Care and Education Center
International Bird Rescue
4369 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, CA 94534*

MINUTES

Attendance:

| <i>TAC members</i> | <i>Agency Representatives</i> | <i>OSPR Participants</i> | <i>Guests</i> |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Steve Ricks (<i>chairperson</i>) | Chris Beckwith, Calif SLC | Thomas M. Cullen, Jr. | Joseph Cobb |
| John Berge (<i>vice chair</i>) | Jonathan Bishop, CCC | Janet Dias | |
| R. Mitchel Beauchamp | Timothy Holmes, U.S.C.G. | Steve Hampton | |
| Jonna Mazet | Linda Scourtis, S.F. BCDC (<i>by phone</i>) | Christine Kluge | |
| Matt Rezvani | Jordan Stout, NOAA | Eric Milstein | |
| Deb Self (<i>by phone</i>) | | Steve Sawyer | |
| | | Ryan Todd | |
| | | Julie Yamamoto | |

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Captain Thomas Cullen, Jr., OSPR Administrator

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman

7/21/16 Minutes – with a correction noted on page two, a motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved without dissent.

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.

- Capsizing of Spirit of Sacramento – at last count 1.6 million has been expended towards the recovery of this vessel. While this highlights the problem of abandoned/derelict vessels in California, this is not an OSPR issue to lead.
- OSPR is undergoing its quadrennial audit. This audit will evaluate the financial basis and programmatic effectiveness of the state’s oil spill prevention, response, and preparedness program. The audit report will be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature on or before 1/1/17.
- June 23 Ventura/Grove Incident - the active response and clean-up efforts are complete. A hearing was called by the Refugio special committee, Senator Jackson and Assemblyman Williams, to look at the response; of particular the concern was the role of the State Fire Marshal.
- September 22nd there was a shelter in place order by the city of Vallejo for the local residents due to a report of a strong crude oil odor, then a ribbon of oil detected in the waters of San Pablo bay adjacent to the Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo. A full pollution response by OSPR and U.S.C.G. commenced. Nothing reached the shore. No wildlife known to be impacted. Origin still unclear. Investigation ongoing.

4. AGENCY BRIEFINGS

NOAA

Mr. Jordan Stout

(report provided)

- The use of Unmanned Aerial Systems, aka “drones”, is becoming an increasing topic of discussion as we

explore and identify increasing capabilities, limitations, coordination issues, mission potential, etc. for the benefit of spill response.

- In August, NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science presented voluminous preliminary results from their wetland mesocosm studies on dispersants and surface washing agents. Publication is anticipated soon.

California Coastal Commission

Mr. Jonathan Bishop

(report provided)

- Commission staff have completed its work on the VOO Task Force. See further discussion below.
- Commission staff working with the LA/LB Harbor Safety Committee to provide an assessment of the presence and capability of tugs to provide emergency towing of tank and nontank vessels to arrest their drift or otherwise guide emergency transit.
- McAbee Beach Spill (Cannery Row) Update – issued an emergency Coastal Development Permit. A public hearing to make the emergency work permanent will be held within the next six months.

BCDC

Ms. Linda Scourtis

(report provided)

- BCDC is also working on the emergency tug towing capability report for the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee in coordination with the California Coastal Commission and LA/LB HSC.
- BCDC staff provided research to the Navigation Workgroup on the issue of submerged pipelines and cables with suggestion that the 4-6 foot standard permitted burial depth in the Bay may not be adequate. The full Harbor Safety Committee transmitted a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers requesting amendments to the permit approval process that would ensure cables and pipelines remain properly buried, to include proper monitoring and maintenance.
- Staff is working with the Office of State Fire Marshal to develop regulations which require hazardous liquid pipelines near the environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the Coastal Zone to have the best available technology on pipelines to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill.

California State Lands Commission

Mr. Chris Beckwith

(report provided)

- Nearing the end of the quadrennial Department of Finance audit on the financial basis and programmatic effectiveness of the state's oil spill prevention, response, and preparedness program.

U.S. Coast Guard

Mr. Timothy Holmes

(report provided)

- The Regional Contingency Plan for Region IX will be released January 3, 2017 at <http://www.rtt9.org/go/doctype/2763/49383>.
- Combined Statewide Area Committee meeting and Regional Response Team IX meeting will be January 10th thru 12th in San Diego. Information at www.rtt9.org. These will continue to be scheduled together annually every January.
- New U.S. Coast Guard Policy on Area Contingency Plans (ACP) – the Coast Guard is revising the U.S.C.G.-sponsored ACP policy with a focus on usability and consistency, extending the ACP revision cycle to 5years, no longer coinciding with the NPREP schedule.
- MEXUS Plan and MEXUSPAC Annex: The new MEXUS Plan is final. The United States will respond to spills in the U.S., and Mexico will respond to spills in Mexico; both share relevant information. U.S.C.G. Districts 8 and 11 to finish revising their regional annexes; tentative plan is to sign them at the International Oil Spill Conference next May.

5. FUND CONDITION AND BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Janet Dias, OSPR Budget Analyst

(report provided)

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 13/14- FY 15/16) and three fiscal years of projected revenues and expenditures (FY 17/18- FY 19/20). For current fiscal year 16/17, revenues and expenditures were presented reflecting fiscal month 2 (August) actuals and projections through the end of August.

6. SB 414 UPDATES

Dr. Julie Yamamoto,

OSPR Assistant Deputy Administrator

(report provided)

- Best Achievable Technology – OSPR is finalizing the best achievable technology reports, which assess equipment for oil spill prevention, preparedness and response. Pursuant to Government Code section 9795, these reports must be submitted to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2017.
- Tug Capability – As part of SB 414, the OSPR Administrator is required to direct the Harbor Safety Committees to assess the presence and capability of tugs within their respective geographic areas of responsibility to provide emergency towing of tank and nontank vessels to arrest their drift or otherwise guide emergency transit. The Los Angeles/Long Beach and San Francisco Harbor Safety Committees have formed subgroups to address these requirements. The tug and barge representative is looking at ocean capable tug boats and the pilot representative is looking at identifying areas where vessels can safely anchor. They've identified their geographical areas of responsibility and coastal areas of concern where a vessel cannot anchor. The completion date for this report is anticipated in early 2017.
- Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) – Provisions of SB 414, specifically Government Code section 8670.55.1, direct the Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to convene a taskforce to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of using VOO for oil spill response in marine waters. Five subcommittees were formed; two public meetings were held. On this date the VOO taskforce presented the TAC its final recommendations. The next step is for the TAC to consider the recommendations and submit its recommendations to the OSPR Administrator and Legislature by January 1, 2017 (Steve Ricks and Matt Rezvani were chosen as the subcommittee to prepare the initial draft of the recommendations). Thereafter, if appropriate, the Administrator shall update regulations by January 1, 2018 to provide inclusion of VOO in oil spill programs. The next TAC meeting on this topic is scheduled for December 13, 2016.

7. REGULATIONS & LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Ms. Christine Kluge,

OSPR Regulations Analyst

(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; and Oil Spill Response Organization Ratings. These regulations were readopted this past September, extending the expiration to September 2017; however, OSPR's goal is to complete the regular rulemaking process by spring of 2017.
- Additionally, the Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund fee regulation is also in the regular rulemaking process. A comment period and public hearing will be held by the end of November/early December 2016 with an anticipated filing completion date at the end of January 2017.

8. TAC 2015 -2016 BIENNIAL REPORT

Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman

J. Berge and J. Mazet have agreed to be on the subcommittee to develop the report. An outline has been drafted. It is anticipated that this report will be completed by next spring/summer.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman

For chairperson - J. Berge nominates S. Ricks in his continued capacity as chairperson; M. Beauchamp seconds.

For vice chair - M. Beauchamp nominates J. Berge in his continued capacity of vice-chair; S. Ricks seconds.

Both accept. All in favor.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS, NEXT MEETING

Mr. Stephen Ricks, TAC Chairman

Next TAC meeting(s) – Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m., at the Office of Spill Prevention and Response in Sacramento, CA. This will consist of a limited agenda to finalize recommendations to present to the OSPR Administrator and Legislature, and to discuss the Biennial Report.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned 2:47 p.m.