

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response

CONTACT: Dana Michaels, PAO DATE: Monday, July 29, 1996
PHONE: 916-323-0716, ext. 3009 TIME: 12:30 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Long Beach Pipeline Break Threatens Wildlife

Long Beach, CA — Approximately 200 barrels of heavy crude or heating oil spilled into Los Cerritos Channel, at approximately 6:10 am, when an oil pipeline broke, near the intersection of Spring Street and Clark Avenue. The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) has responded by dispatching Wardens, wildlife biologists, and Oil Spill Prevention Specialists to the site, and establishing — with the Coast Guard — an Incident Command Center. The cause of the pipeline break is unknown at this time.

The oil is contained in Los Cerritos Channel, between Clark Avenue and East Atherton Street, where seven booms have been placed. Oil is still flowing from the pipeline, at a rate of about 15-20 gallons per minute. Oil spill response personnel are vacuuming the oil, as it flows into the channel. The channel is concrete at the spill site, then mud, south of Atherton Street. Secondary boom has been placed at Anaheim Street, between Palo Verde Avenue and Studebaker Road, as a precaution.

Twenty-four oiled ducks and one cormorant have been sighted in the area. The OSPR veterinary van is enroute, and the Oiled Wildlife Care Network has been mobilized. Los Cerritos channel flows into Alamitos Bay, where the endangered California least tern frequently nests, and is present now.

The OSPR and Coast Guard are investigating the exact cause of the spill.

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