

OSPR News Release

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FISH AND GAME ASKS FOR HELP IN CATCHING ILLEGAL DUMPER

NEWPORT BAY--The California Department of Fish and Game needs the public's help in catching the individual(s) responsible for illegally dumping 100 gallons of used crank case oil into a storm drain that led to the bay on November 27, 1995.

"We are getting positive support from the public," said Al Zamudio, Fish and Game Warden and Incident Commander. "We're asking that if the public has tips, to please turn them in." Zamudio said that investigators have contacted local residents and authorities from Costa Mesa asking for any information that might lead to the responsible party. Zamudio asked that anyone having information on the illegal dump that occurred either late Sunday evening or early Monday morning call the Fish and Game Dispatch office at (800) 952-5400.

Zamudio said the clean-up is proceeding well with more than 15 personnel still on site from Fish and Game and its Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, and Advanced Clean-up Technology Incorporated (ACTI). He anticipates completing clean-up by the end of

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the week, though containment boom placed across the channel to capture oil will be left in place and monitored for any residual amounts that might surface. The boom has been deployed in five different locations along the channel. Staff from ACTI will be moving into some of the coves in the channel to cut brush and continue clean-up.

Wildlife rescue and treatment will continue. Fish and Game personnel had six birds being treated and staff working on capturing another four that had been contaminated on November 29, as of noon. No endangered species have been impacted, but crews will continue the search for impacted wildlife past the end of clean-up. Wildlife care personnel stabilize the birds by providing fluids and warmth, and then remove the oil and rehabilitate the birds for release back into the wild.

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