

Wednesday, February 22, 1995
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORWALK, CA -- The State Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Unocal Corporation, and Metrolink contained a crude oil spill in the San Gabriel River, preventing the oil from reaching the Pacific Ocean. DFG Officials estimate at least 100 barrels of oil got into Coyote Creek after seeping into an underground storm drain that leads to the creek. Coyote Creek flows into The San Gabriel River, which empties into the ocean, south of Long Beach.

As of 3 p.m. today, International Bird Rescue Research Center personnel had captured and are caring for ten oiled birds: eight coots, one mallard, and one cormorant. Wildlife specialists are attempting to capture and clean approximately 70 more oiled birds on the shoreline south of Atherton Street in Long Beach. Most of the birds are expected to survive.

The spill occurred Monday, Feb. 20, when a Metrolink-contracted excavation crew accidentally broke a Unocal pipeline, near Bloomfield Avenue and the Imperial Highway in Norwalk. Unocal estimates a total of 900 barrels (37,800 gallons) escaped from the pipeline. The clean-up crews have established five collection points for recapturing loose oil.

The DFG Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response command center will close at the end of the day, and no further news releases are anticipated.

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