

Date: Monday, July 30, 1997; 4:30 p.m.

Barge and Truck Recovered from Delta Slough

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Follow-up News Release

The barge and truck with a tank-trailer that capsized into Three-Mile Slough at Brannan Island State Recreation Area, yesterday, have been removed from the water. California Department of Fish and Game wardens oversaw the operation, to ensure that the 4,850 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel in the sunken vessel, truck, and tank were kept from spilling into the Delta waterway.

The truck and tank-trailer, owned by B.C. Stocking Distributing of Vacaville, were pulled from the water at about 10:00 p.m. Wednesday. The cargo, 2,600 gallons of diesel and 1,100 gallons of gasoline, were removed by a vacuum truck, prior to the lifting and towing operations. A small crack in the rear tank allowed some fuel to escape, but careful work by responders kept the spill to less than 5 gallons. Since the entire work area was surrounded by both sorbent and hard containment boom, the spilled fuel was removed from the water, immediately.

A large crane was used to upright the barge, which is owned by Mega Sand of Pittsburg. Crews pumped-out the engine, well, and fuel tank into a 5,000-gallon vacuum truck. By 1:15 a.m., the barge was floating, and lashed to a tug, which then towed it to Fulton Shipyard, in Antioch, where it will be cleaned and purged.

OSPR Incident Commander Dale Wong commended the crane operator from Dutra Dredging, saying, "He proved to be one heck of an operator!"

The operation involved State Park staff, emergency response personnel from the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Coast Guard, California Highway Patrol, local sheriff, police and fire departments, and county HAZMAT teams.

DFG Staff on-scene included OSPR Warden Dale Wong (Incident Commander), and Region 2 Wardens Gary Hobgood (Deputy IC) and Darryl Stevenson (Investigator).
