



OSPR Media Advisory

OFFICE OF OIL SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE (916) 445-9338

Ground-Breaking Ceremony in Santa Cruz

The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) will host a ground-breaking ceremony at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) Long Marine Laboratory, Friday, May 31, at 10:00 A.M., to begin construction of the Oiled Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center. Officials scheduled to speak include California Department of Fish and Game Director Jacqueline E. Schafer, University of California Chancellor Karl S. Pister, and Department of General Services Director Peter G. Stamison.

The event will take place at the actual site location, near the Long Marine Laboratory, at 100 Shaffer Road. The program includes a welcome and introductions by OSPR Administrator Pete Bontadelli, comments by the above-named officials, the ground-breaking photo opportunities, followed by media availabilities.

This center will be the nation's first facility dedicated to the research and care of oiled wildlife. When it is not being used as an oiled wildlife care center, the facility will be shared with University of California, Santa Cruz researchers for compatible or joint research projects as part of the UCSC Long Marine Laboratory. It will also be used in OSPR's training and response activities. Other agencies expected to participate in activities at the Center include the National Marine Fisheries Services and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The center will become a part of the California Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), a science-driven program uniting over a dozen organizations dedicated to wildlife care. Local groups in the OWCN include The Marine Mammal Center/Marin Headlands, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey Peninsula SPCA, and Native Animal Rescue/Santa Cruz.

CONTACTS:

DFG-OSPR Public Affairs Officer Dana Michaels: 916-327-9948.

UC Santa Cruz Public Information Office, Robert Irion: 408-459-2495.