SFPP PIPELINE INCIDENT

CONTACT: Dana Michaels DATE: March 9, 1997

Incident Command Post TIME: 5:30 p.m.

(916) 216-1301

Trans-Sierra Pipeline Back in Service

SUMMIT CREEK — Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines' (SFPP) pipeline that transports gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel from San Francisco Bay area refineries to Reno was brought back on-line, shortly after 10:00 p.m. Saturday. "The pipeline is back in service, and fuel is flowing to Reno, again," said Steve Tostengard, SFPP's District Director.

SFPP crews replaced thirty feet of pipe near Donner Lake, Friday night, and spent all day Saturday testing one-half mile of pipeline, which included the replacement pipe. Hydrostatic (water) pressure tests confirmed the pipeline's integrity. Water was removed from the pipeline, the half-mile section was tied back into the main pipeline, and additional pressure tests were successfully performed with petroleum products before the pipeline was returned to service.

The repaired pipeline was inspected and approved by the State Fire Marshall's office, which is the State agency responsible for pipeline integrity and safety in California.

With fuel again flowing to Reno, responders from the California Department of Fish and Game, Nevada County Department of Environmental Health, and Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines are concentrating their efforts on containing and removing the spilled petroleum from the creek and preventing its movement toward Donner Lake, identifying the areas contaminated by the spill, removing contaminated snow and soil, assessing biological injuries, and identifying archaeologically important areas.

The public is again reminded to stay away from the work sites along Donner Pass Road, near Summit Creek, as there is danger from heavy construction equipment, trucks, and clean-up activities.

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California Department of Fish and Game

Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline

Nevada County Department of Environmental Health