

CONTACT: Dana Michaels, PAO DATE: Monday, July 29, 1996
PHONE: 916-323-0716, ext. 3009, TIME: 3:30 p.m.
 or 327-9948.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Long Beach Pipeline Break

Long Beach, CA — Approximately 200 barrels of crude oil spilled into Los Cerritos Channel, at 6:10 am, when an ARCO pipeline broke, near the intersection of Spring Street and Clark Avenue. The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) has responded by dispatching Wardens, wildlife biologists, and Oil Spill Prevention Specialists to the site, and has established, along with the Coast Guard, an Incident Command Center. The oil flow has been stopped, but the cause of the pipeline break is unknown at this time.

The oil is contained in Los Cerritos Channel, between Clark Avenue and East Atherton Street, where seven booms have been placed. Secondary boom was placed at Anaheim Street, between Palo Verde Avenue and Studebaker Road, as a precaution. Oil flowed from the pipeline for several hours, and was vacuumed before it could flow into the channel.

Twenty-four oiled ducks and one cormorant have been sighted in the area. The OSPR veterinary van is enroute, and the Oiled Wildlife Care Network has been mobilized. Los Cerritos channel flows into Alamitos Bay, where the endangered California least tern frequently nests, and is present now.

The OSPR and Coast Guard are investigating the exact cause of the spill.

###