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DATE: December 14, 1995  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
RELEASE #: 3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
BULL CREEK CLEANUP WINDING UP:  
WILDLIFE MONITORING CONTINUES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY--The Department of Fish and Game's joint response with the California Highway Patrol to 3,800 gallons of oil spilled from a tank truck with trailer on December 13, 1995, will draw to a close tomorrow though officials expect to continue monitoring for impacts to wildlife and habitat.

The Department of Fish and Game's Region 5 office and its Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) responded immediately to the threat to the wildlife and habitat in the area. In addition, several oil spill response contractors were on-scene: Advanced Cleanup Technologies Incorporated, AllWaste, and Action Pumping. More than 80 individuals participated in the cleanup.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) took the lead on the cleanup of oil on the highway and the removal of oil remaining in the damaged trailer while the Department of Fish and Game focused on containment, recovery and cleanup of oil that impacted the water and surrounding wildlife. Personnel from both departments will be comparing figures for materials recovered to determine exactly how much material spilled from the trailer, how much was recovered from the highway, and how much entered the environment and was recovered.

Department of Fish and Game officials are attempting to capture wildlife but the slippery terrain, distance, and high waters make it difficult. The OSPR mobile veterinary laboratory and International Bird Rescue and Research are on call in the event impacted wildlife are captured. The winds have made placing and maintaining boom to collect oil challenging.

The spill began with an accident involving several trucks at the intersection of Interstate 5 and State Route 14. According to CHP officials, the incident started when a tractor trailer carrying tires lost control and overturned. A postal truck following behind the tractor trailer tried to avoid the debris in the road hit the tractor trailer. The tank truck with trailer, attempting to avoid the scene, lost control of its trailer which ruptured and resulted in approximately 3,800 gallons of an oil known as cutter stock flowing into a storm drain and eventually into Bull Creek. The sheen from the oil spread down Bull Creek and into the Los Angeles River as far as the 110 Freeway. Injuries in the accident were reported to be minor.