

CONTACT: Brian Stark
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County

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TIME: 2:00 P.M.

Public Meeting About Avila Spill Restoration Plans

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The Avila Beach Trustee Council has scheduled a public meeting to present and discuss restoration plans they've developed for San Luis Obispo Creek and southern sea otter habitat, and take questions from the public. The meeting will be held in the community Room of the San Luis Obispo City/County Library, at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, March 31, 1997.

The Trustee Council is made up of representatives from the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These projects will be funded by a settlement from the Unocal Corporation, as a result of the 1992 Avila Beach oil spill. The settlement, which encompassed both a State Settlement Agreement and a parallel Federal Consent Decree, allocates \$950,000 for estuary restoration, riparian corridor revegetation, and the removal of a fish migration barrier. The settlement allocates another \$100,000 for sea otter-related restoration projects.

These restoration programs create significant opportunities for improvement along the central coast and the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed.

The San Luis Obispo Creek Restoration Plan documents the source of funding, resources injured by the oil spill, proposed restoration alternatives for the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed, and project budgeting. Copies of the Restoration Plan will be available at the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County beginning on March 15. The public is encouraged to review the plan and provide comments.

The Sea Otter Restoration Plan documents the source of funding, restoration alternatives, and preferred restoration alternatives for the southern sea otter. This report includes budget details for the preferred alternatives, and will also be available through the Land Conservancy, beginning March 15.

For further information regarding the public meeting and/or proposed plans, please contact Mr. Brian Stark at the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County at: Phone (805) **544-9096**, or e-mail **land-conservancy@slonet.org**.