MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. C42 was approved as Minute Item No. 42 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 08/21/96 meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM
C42

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08/21/96
PRC 1449.1
C. Perez

AMENDMENT OF LEASE PRC NO. 1449.1
GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT OF WAY USE

PERMITTEE/APPLICANT:
Unocal Corporation
255 Willow Road
Arroyo Grande, California 93420

LOCATION:
A 4.59 acre parcel , more or less, of tide and submerged land in the Pacific Ocean, offshore of Pismo State Beach (now known as the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area), near the City of Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo County.

TERMS OF ORIGINAL LEASE:
Lease Period:
Forty-nine years from October 25, 1954.
Land Use:
Construction, maintenance and use of a wastewater outfall pipeline.
Consideration:
$1,170 per annum.
Public Liability Insurance:
Combined Single limit coverage of $500,000.

TERMS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:
Land Use:
Construction and continued use and maintenance of an 18-inch diameter wastewater outfall pipeline, and retention of existing abandoned 14-inch diameter wastewater outfall pipeline.
Land Description:
The land description of the lease premises shall be superseded by the description attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
Consideration:
$1,428 per annum.
All other terms and conditions of original lease remain in full force and effect.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

A. Public Resources Code: Div. 6, Parts 1 and 2; Div. 13
B. Cal. Code Regs.: Title 2, Div. 3; Title 14, Div. 6.

AB 884:

Application incomplete at time of print.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The Unocal Santa Maria Refinery discharges refinery wastewater to the Pacific Ocean via an existing outfall pipe and diffuser system associated with Unocal's upland coker plant. The original 14-inch diameter outfall line, which extended approximately 1,200 feet offshore, was authorized by the State Lands Commission pursuant to a 49-year Right-of-Way easement (Lease No. PRC 1449.1) which was effective October 25, 1954. The lease was amended effective May 1, 1984, to add a 10-inch diameter extension, 500-feet in length.

   Unocal now proposes to replace the existing outfall and diffuser with a new system. The new 18-inch diameter outfall line will extend 2,000 feet offshore and will be installed adjacent to the existing line. Unocal proposes no changes in the continuing discharge, which is authorized by the Regional Water Quality Control Board under the provisions of NPDES Permit California 0000051.

   The onshore portion of the outfall line has been authorized by San Luis Obispo County. The County issued a land use permit upon certification of the Negative Declaration (SCH 95031029) on May 5, 1995. Pursuant to the land use permit issued by the County, the new onshore portion has been constructed and is in place.

   The California Department of Parks and Recreation, specifically the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, has no objection to the proposed replacement, pursuant to the conditions imposed by the County permit addressing public safety and endangered species concerns. Unocal proposes to begin work on the offshore pipeline on October 1, 1996.

   The existing line will be cleaned, plugged, and abandoned in place. As such, it remains within the right-of-way covered by Lease No. PRC 1449.1. As a

requirement for allowing this outfall line to be abandoned in place, Unocal shall indemnify, hold harmless and, at the option of the State, defend the State, its officers, agents, and employees against and for any and all liability, claims, damages or injuries of any kind or from any cause whatsoever arising out of or in any way associated with this abandonment.

2. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15025), the staff has prepared a Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration identified as ND 674, State Clearinghouse No. 967071107. Such Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. See attached Exhibit "C".

   Based upon the Initial Study, the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the comments received in response thereto, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15074(b))

3. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

San Luis Obispo County, Regional Water Quality Control Board.

FURTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:

California State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

EXHIBITS:

A. Land Description
B. Site Map
C. Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. CERTIFY THAT A PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ND 674, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 96071107, WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CEQA AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

2. ADOPT THE PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT, AS APPROVED, WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

3. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTIONS 6370, ET SEQ.

4. AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF AN AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 1996, TO THE UNOCAL CORPORATION, TO GENERAL LEASE - RIGHT-OF-WAY USE, LEASE NO. PRC 1449.1, FOR THE ABANDONMENT IN PLACE OF AN EXISTING WASTEWATER OUTFALL PIPELINE AND THE CONSTRUCTION AND CONTINUED USE AND MAINTENANCE OF A NEW 18-INCH DIAMETER WASTEWATER OUTFALL PIPELINE; IN CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL RENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,428 WITH THE STATE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO FIX A DIFFERENT RENT ON EACH FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEASE; ON THE LAND DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF. ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE LEASE REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

EXHIBIT "A"
LAND DESCRIPTION

PRC 1449.1

A strip of tide and submerged land 100 feet wide in the Pacific Ocean near Oso Flaco Lake, San Luis Obispo County, California, said strip lying 50 feet on each side of the following described centerline:

> BEGINNING at the westerly terminus of the pipeline easement centerline described in the deed to the Union Oil Company of California and recorded in Book 1755, Page 553, Official Records of San Luis Obispo County; thence along said pipeline and its prolongation N79°11'32"W, 2000 feet to the end of the herein described line.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion lying landward of the ordinary high water mark of the Pacific Ocean.

The bearing in the above description is based on the California Coordinate System, Zone 5.

END DESCRIPTION

PREPARED AUGUST 8, 1996 BY CRIS N. PEREZ, L.S. #5169

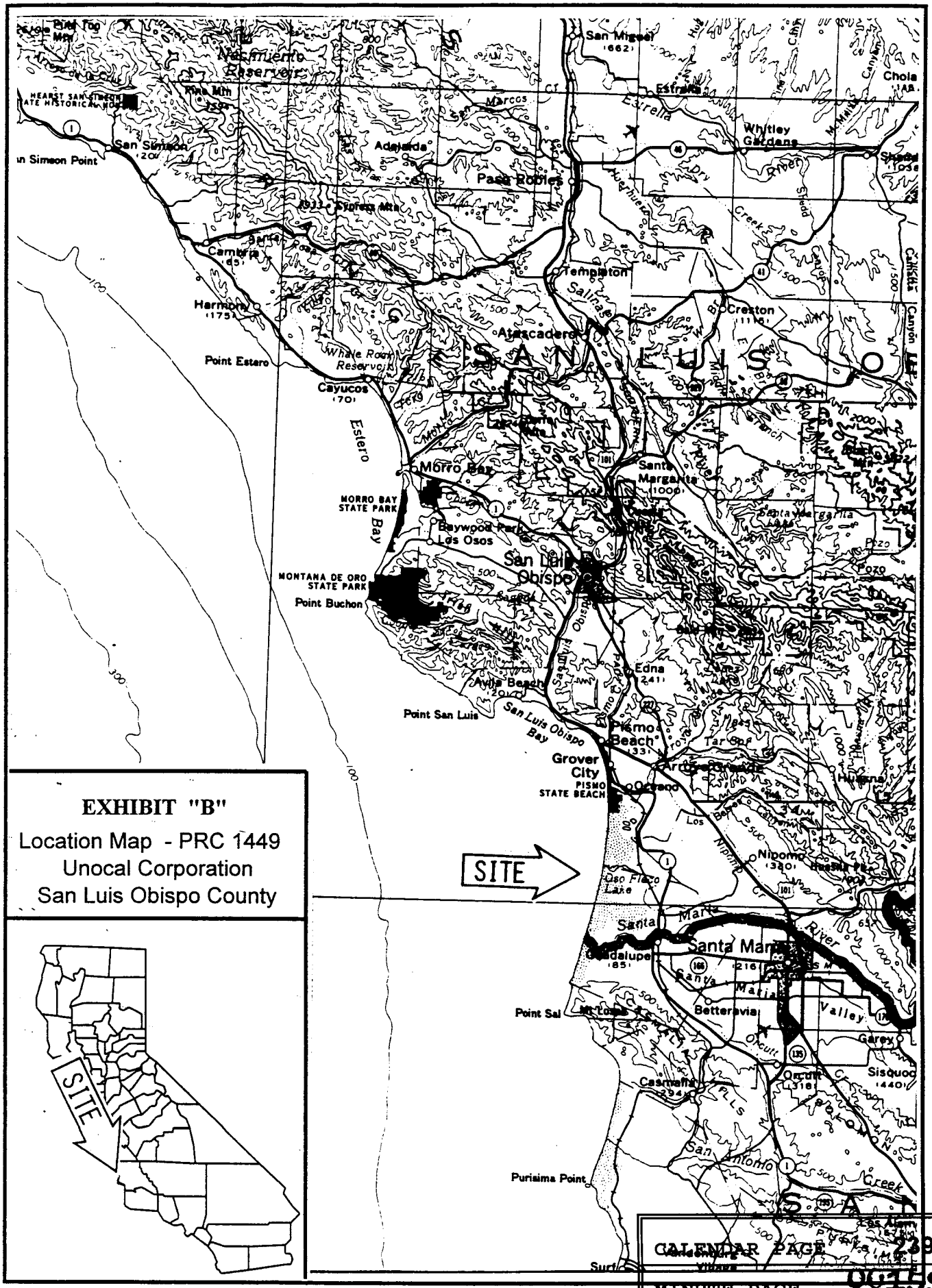

EXHIBIT "B"

Location Map - PRC 1449
Unocal Corporation
San Luis Obispo County

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EXHIBIT "C"

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PETE WILSON, Governor

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

ROBERT C. HIGHT, *Executive Officer*
(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service From TDD Phone 1-800-735-2922
from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2929

July 29, 1996

File: PRC 1449.1
ND 674
SCH #: 96071107

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(SECTION 15073 CCR & SECTION 21092 PRC)

A Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code Regulations), and State Lands Commission Regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Code Regulations) for a project application currently being processed by the staff of the State Lands Commission.

This document is attached for your review. Comments should be addressed to the State Lands Commission office shown above with attention to the undersigned. All comments must be received by August 19, 1996.

The Negative Declaration will be considered for adoption at a meeting of the State Lands Commission no earlier than August 21, 1996. You will be notified of the date and location at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call the undersigned at (916) 574-1893.

GOODYEAR K. WALKER
Division of Environmental
Planning and Management

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PETE WILSON, Governor

CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

ROBERT C. HIGHT, *Executive Officer*
(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service From TDD Phone 1-800-735-2922
from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2929

Attachment 1

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

File:PRC1449.1
ND 674
SCH#: 96071107

Project Title: Santa Maria Refinery Outfall Replacement

Proponent: Unocal Corporation

Project Location: Offshore of San Luis Obispo County.

Project Description: Approximately 2000 feet of 18 inch coated steel pipe and a diffuser system will be installed on the sea floor south of Pismo Beach and north of the Santa Maria River.

Contact Person: Goodyear K. Walker Phone: (916) 574-1893

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code Regulations), and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Code Regulations).

Based upon the attached Initial Study, it has been found that:

____ this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

_X_ mitigation measures included in the project will avoid potentially significant effects.

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AMENDMENT OF OFFSHORE RIGHT OF WAY LEASE

Initial Study -- Introduction

The State Lands Commission (SLC) and Unocal Corporation are processing a lease amendment to provide for the replacement of an existing outfall line from the Santa Maria Refinery to PRC 1449 offshore of San Luis Obispo County. These lands are under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission and the Commission is the Lead Agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code), the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code Regulations) and the State Lands Commission regulations (Section 2901 et seq., Title 2, California Code regulations).

This Initial Study concludes that the project, as proposed and with the included mitigations, will not have any significant impacts on the environment, and that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate under the provisions of Section 15070 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The onshore portion of the outfall line has been analyzed and approved by San Luis Obispo County, in an Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (SCH #95031029) certified May 5, 1995.

Project Description

The Unocal Santa Maria Refinery located in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County, California discharges refinery wastewater to the Pacific Ocean via an existing outfall pipe and diffuser system. This discharge is regulated and approved under the authority of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, under the provisions of an NPDES permit (No. CA 0000051). The effects of this discharge on the marine environment have been monitored over the years under the terms of the NPDES permit.

The proposed project is to replace the existing outfall and diffuser with a new system, substantially the same as the exiting outfall, which has reached the end of its useful life. The outfall site is located just south of Pismo Beach and north of the Santa Maria River. The new outfall will be steel pipe 14 inches in diameter, with an outside coating of concrete to make the total diameter 18 inches. Both the current and the proposed pipelines extend approximately 2000 feet offshore and have a maximum permitted discharge of 0.575 million gallons per day. The existing pipeline will be cleaned, plugged, and abandoned in place. There will be no changes in the continuing discharge.

Recent underwater surveys have noted that the existing outfall is completely buried under the sand, with only the diffuser risers evident above the sand bottom. It was reported earlier by the Institute of Marine Resources that the original line was covered ~~by a 3 foot "mantle" of sand~~

within two years of its construction. This stretch of the California coast contains the longest sandy beaches in southern California, and is characterized by high wave energy, considerable sand transport both north and south with a relatively small southward net transport, and significant dune building due to onshore transport of beach sand by winds. The offshore site of the outfall is a relatively flat sandy bottom, with no rocky subtidal habitats in the immediate area. The proposed line will be installed adjacent to the existing line, at a similar depth and configuration, by simply laying the pipe on the bottom and it is expected that it will be completely covered within a short time after construction.

The pipe sections will be welded together on shore and inspected while dry. The diffuser will be attached, and a barge anchored offshore will slowly pull the floating pipeline into position. It will then be allowed to fill with seawater and be lowered to the sea floor. The shore end will be attached to the existing line from the refinery. The existing pipeline will be capped and left in place, so as not to disturb the benthic community that has grown up over the pipeline.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASUSRES INCORPORATED INTO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1. The pipeline will be laid directly on the ocean floor, with no trenching, to minimize disturbance of benthic organisms.

2. The applicant will follow all procedures in the approved Oil Spill Contingency and Containment plan at all times.

3. The project construction will take place during daylight hours only.

4. All marine and equipment engines will be maintained and kept in tune as described in the SLO County APCD inventory of emissions.

5. Ocean water will be used for all hydrostatic testing procedures.

6. All vessels at sea will be equipped with and show all navigation lights reqired by Coast Guard regulations.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Applicant: Unocal Corporation
2555 Willow Road
Arroyo Grande, California 93420

B. Checklist Date: 06 / 01 / 96

C. Contact Person: Goodyear K. Walker
Telephone: (916) 574-1893

D. Purpose: Replacement of existing offshore outfall line and diffuser system

E. Location: Offshore of San Luis Obispo County, just south of Pismo Beach and north of the Santa Maria River.

F. Description: Approximately 2000 feet of 18 inch cement coated steel pipe will be placed on the sea floor and attached to a diffuser system. The existing outfall will be abandoned in place.

G. Persons Contacted: Mr. Ed Breuninger, Unocal Corporation
Mr. Cy Oggins, California Coastal Commission
Mr. Richard Nitsos, California Department of Fish and Game

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. *(Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers)*

A. **Earth.** Will the proposal result in:	Yes	Maybe	No
1. Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?	___	___	X
The pipeline and diffuser will be assembled on land, and pulled onto the sea bed, with no trenching involved.			
2. Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?	___	___	X
There will be minor shifting of sea floor sands as the pipeline is lowered into place, but the normal movement of sand will restore the bottom configuration within 6 to 10 months. See the "Impacts" section following this checklist for further details.			
3. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	___	___	X
See responses to Items 1 and 2, above.			
4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	___	___	X
See responses to Nos. 1 and 2, above.			
5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	___	___	X
The proposed project will take place on the ocean bottom, with no impacts onshore.			
6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake?	___	___	X
The natural energy and deposition cycles on this portion of the coast will restore the sea bed to it's natural condition within 6 to 10 months, and the beach will not be impacted at all. For a a detailed description of the sand dynamics in this area and the			

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potential impacts of the project, see the "Impacts" section, following this checklist.

7. Exposure of all people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? ___ ___ X

While the proposed project takes place in a seismically active part of the State, the project will not expose the construction workers to any additional risks. The outfall itself does not cross any known active faults.

B. **Air.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? . . . . . ___ ___ X

Neither the quarterly or daily emissions from the proposed project will be of sufficient nature or duration to exceed significance thresholds. See the analysis prepared by the San Luis Obispo APCD in the "Impacts" section following this checklist.

2. The creation of objectional odors? . . . . . ___ ___ X

None of the equipment used for this project produces odors.

3. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The project will be placed underwater, and so will not affect any air movements.

C. **Water.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Changes in the currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? . . . . . ___ ___ X

There are very strong currents in this area of the coast, and the pipeline will be quickly buried, so there will be minimal impacts when the pipeline is first placed on the sea bed, and none thereafter. See the "Impacts" section following this checklist for further details.

2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The proposed project is offshore; the connecting land portion was dealt with in a San Luis Obispo County Negitive Declaration (SCH#95031029), certified in March, 1995.

3. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The proposed project is offshore; the connecting land portion was dealt with in a San Luis Obispo County Negitive Declaration (SCH#95031029), certified in March, 1995.

4. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The proposed project is offshore; the connecting land portion was dealt with in a San Luis Obispo County Negitive Declaration (SCH#95031029), certified in March, 1995.

5. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality; including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? . . . . . — — X

The project will use natural sea water to test the line, which will be discharged where it was collected.

6. Alteration of the direct on or rate of flow of ground waters? . . . . . — — X

The proposed project is offshore; the connecting land portion was dealt with in a San Luis Obispo County Negitive Declaration (SCH#95031029), certified in March, 1995.

7. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? . . . . . — — X

There will be no cuts or excavations, and no ground water will be used for the project.

8. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? . . . . . — — X

No fresh water will be used for the project.

9. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? . . . . . — — X

Construction will take place from barges offshore, so there will be no impacts.

10. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs? . . . . . — — X

The proposed project is offshore; the connecting land portion was dealt with in a San Luis Obispo County Negitive Declaration (SCH#95031029), certified in March, 1995.

D. **Plant Life.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? . . . . . — — X

Since the project is on the sea bed, there will be no impacts to any terrestrial plants. There are no known kelp or eel grass beds on the project site. Since the substrate is sand, no other aquatic plants will be impacted.

2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? . . . . . — — X

No unique, rare or endangered plant species are in the project impacted area.

3. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? . . . . . — — X

The pipeline will be quickly buried, and so will not act as a barrier. See the "Impacts" discussion following this checklist.

With the pipe assembled on land and placed in the ocean there is little chance of introducing new species.

4. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? . . . . . — — X

There is no agricultural land at the project site.

E. **Animal Life.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)? . . . . . — — X

A few individual benthic organisms may be crushed when the pipeline is put in place, but with the natural covering of the pipe the original species make-up will return in a few months. Long term monitoring of the old outfall has shown no impacts on the species in the area of the outfall and diffuser. See the "Impacts" section following this checklist for more detail.

2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? . . . . . — — X

No unique, rare or endangered animal species are in the project impacted area.

3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? . . . . . — — X

The pipeline will be quickly buried, and so will not act as a barrier. With the pipe assembled on land and placed in the ocean there is little chance of introducing new species.

4. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? . . . . . — — X

The naturally shifting sands will quickly return the project site to its pre-project state.

F. **Noise.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Increase in existing noise levels? . . . . . X — —

There will be a short term increase in noise during the construction of the project. Construction will be limited to daylight hours, and will last no longer than two weeks.

2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? . . . . . — — X

The construction equipment to be used is normal for this type of work, and does not pose an unusual noise risk for the construction workers or the public.

G. **Light and Glare.** Will the proposal result in:

1. The production of new light or glare? . . . . . ___ ___ X

Construction will be limited to daylight hours, and will not produce any new source of light. While present on the site, the barge used to install the pipeline will show required navigation lights, but no other source of glare.

H. **Land Use.** Will the proposal result in:

1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? . . ___ ___ X

The parcel is currently used for an existing outfall that is to be replaced by the project.

I. **Natural Resources.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? . . . . . ___ ___ X

No natural resources, other than normal fuel for the construction equipment, will be used.

2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources? . . . . . ___ ___ X

No natural resources, other than normal fuel for the construction equipment, will be used.

J. **Risk of Upset.** Does the proposal result in:

1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The only hazardous materials used on the project are the fuels used by the construction equipment. Contingency plans for spill prevention and containment will be approved by the State Lands Commission prior to the start of construction.

2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The construction equipment will be used in a very limited area, and will not interfere with any response or evacuation plan.

K. **Population.** Will the proposal result in:

1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The project uses a very limited workforce, and does not construct any new housing, so will not increase the population in either the short or long terms.

L. **Housing.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Affecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? . ___ ___ X

Since there will be no population changes, there will be no demand for current or future housing generated by this project.

M. **Transportation/Circulation.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The only additional vehicle trips to be generated by this project are the workers cars or light trucks, and approximately 13 trips by flat-bed trucks transporting pipe. This is not considered a significant increase over the existing traffic in the area.

2. Affecting existing parking facilities, or create a demand for new parking? ___ ___ X

Workers vehicles and pipe trucks will be parked at the work site, and no permanent structures requiring parking will be constructed.

3. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? . . . . . ___ ___ X

Since the project will be underwater, there will be no on-going impacts to transportation systems in the project area.

4. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? . . . . . ___ ___ X

See response to Item 3, above.

5. Alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? . . . . . ___ ___ X

See response to Item 3, above.

6. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? . ___ ___ X

See response to Item 3, above.

N. **Public Services.** Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

1. Fire protection? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The applicant will provide fire protection during construction, and the project will be installed on the ocean floor, so there will be no need for fire protection services.

2. Police protection? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The applicant will provide for work site security, and the project does not require police protection after completion.

3. Schools? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The project does not construct any residences, so there will be no additional need for schools generated by the project.

4. Parks and other recreational facilities? . . . . . ___ ___ X

See response to Item 3, above.

5. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? . . . . . ___ ___ X

There are no public facilities involved or constructed by the project.

6. Other governmental services? . . . . . ___ ___ X

See response to Item 3, above.

O. **Energy.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? . . . . . ___ ___ X

Only fuel for the worker's vehicles and the pipe trucks will be used for this project.

2. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources?. . . . . ___ ___ X

See response for Item 1, above. The construction equipment used will all be self-powered.

P. **Utilities.** Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

1. Power or natural gas? . . . . . ___ ___ X

See responses to Item O-1 and O-2, above.

2. Communication systems? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The project may make minor use of the existing telephone network.

3. Water? . . . . . ___ ___ X

There will be no demands on the local water system. The water used to test the pipeline will be taken from the ocean.

4. Sewer or septic tanks? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The project will not discharge to any sewer or septic systems.

5. Storm water drainage? . . . . . ___ ___ X

Since the project will be constructed underwater, there will be no impacts on storm water drainage.

6. Solid waste and disposal? . . . . . ___ ___ X

All trash generated by the construction workers will be collected on-site, and disposed of properly.

Q. **Human Health.** Will the proposal result in:

1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The discharge from this project has been operating and monitored under an existing NPDES permit for several years. There have been no violations since the project was installed in 1954.

2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? . . . . . ___ ___ X

The construction process does not expose workers to health hazards, and the continued operation of the outfall has been shown to be non-hazardous.

R. **Aesthetics.** Will the proposal result in:

1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view? . . . . . ___ X ___

There will be construction equipment on-site for a short period,

approximately 15 days, and the project itself will be underwater. **The short term presence of equipment is not seen as a significant impact.**

S. **Recreation.** Will the proposal result in:

1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? . . . . . X — —

A short portion of beach will be closed for the period in which the pipeline is put into place offshore. This will result in that portion of beach being closed for no more than 20 days. Due to the extensive beach areas north and south of the project, and the project's short duration, this is not seen as a significant impact.

T. **Cultural Resources**

1. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site? . . . . . — — X

Since the pipeline will be lain on the sea floor, and not trenched, there is almost no potential for impacting offshore cultural resources. No known shipwrecks exist at the project site.

2. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? . . . . . — — X

Since the project is placed offshore there will be no impacts to onshore structures.

3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? . . . . . — — X

See response to Item 2, above.

4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? . . . . . — — X

See response to Item 2, above.

U. **Mandatory Findings of Significance.**

1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? . . . — — X

The project will be set on the sea floor with a minimum of disturbance, and the discharge has been monitored over time and found not to damage the environment.

2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? X

See response to Item 1, above.

3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? . . . . . — — X

The project replaces an aging outfall with a new one, but does not increase actual discharges.

4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? . . . . . — — X

The short duration of the project, and no increase in the Amount of discharge will have no adverse effects on humans. The replacement of the old pipeline before it leaks or breaks is seen as a beneficial impact.

III. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (*See Comments Attached*)

There is a detailed discussion of Air Quality impacts, Sand Transport and Biological impacts following this checklist.

IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

— I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

X I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures incorporated into the project and described in this Initial Study. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

— I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date: 07 / 26 / 1996

For the State Lands Commission

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND INCLUDED MITIGATIONS

Environmental Setting

Previous Environmental Studies

Completion of the original outfall pipeline was achieved in November, 1954. Refinery operations and limited receiving water discharge began on March 24, 1955. Early pre-NPDES surveys were performed by the Institute of Marine Resources, University of California at the request of the California Department of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A total of four surveys were performed between April of 1955 and June of 1956. Data gathered included beach and sub-tidal species densities, general fish and invertebrate distributions, net trawls, plankton tows, toxicity studies, current-cross measurements, and fluorescein dye receiving water movement studies. Prior to this study there had been no site specific investigations in the area.

As a part of the Unocal Santa Maria Refinery NPDES permit, receiving water monitoring has been performed by Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc. During 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, and 1993. These monitoring studies have shown that the present discharge has not violated State Ocean Plan conditions as to the marine receiving waters, sediments, and local marine biota. Data obtained from recent Kinnetic Laboratories surveys included sediment chemistry, benthic infaunal analysis with various statistical tests of impact effects, and sediment grain size analysis.

Beach and Offshore Sediments

The location of the Unocal outfall is shown in Figure 1. The outfall is located just south of Pismo Beach and north of the Santa Maria River, with Point Sal to the south. With respect to sand transport along the coast the site is within the Santa Maria Littoral Cell, which extends for 82 miles from Point Buchon to Point Conception (Corps of Engineers, 1986). This cell has the longest sandy beaches in southern California. Pismo Beach is over 16 miles long and is backed by some of the most extensive sand dunes in California. These long beaches receive the highest fluxes of wave energy on the Pacific coast, but because the shoreline is nearly normal to the prevailing waves, the net longshore transport of sand is relatively small. The cell was first studied by Bowen and Inman (1966), and their study is still the most detailed analysis of the area. Estimates of littoral movement of sand along the general project area indicates a net southward transport of about 62 thousand cubic yards of sand per year. Interestingly, considerably larger fluxes of sand occur during the year both up- and down-coast, with annual averages of 276 thousand cubic yards to the south and 214 thousand cubic yards to the north, depending on the angle of the ocean swells. Also, dune building accounts for about 46 thousand cubic yards of sand each year in the region from Oso Flaco Creek to the Santa Maria River.

Nearshore currents in this littoral cell would be both to the north and to the south, depending upon the instantaneous wave motion impacting the shore. Notable features would be expected to be rather weak tidal currents, with peak values of roughly 10 cm/sec, strong

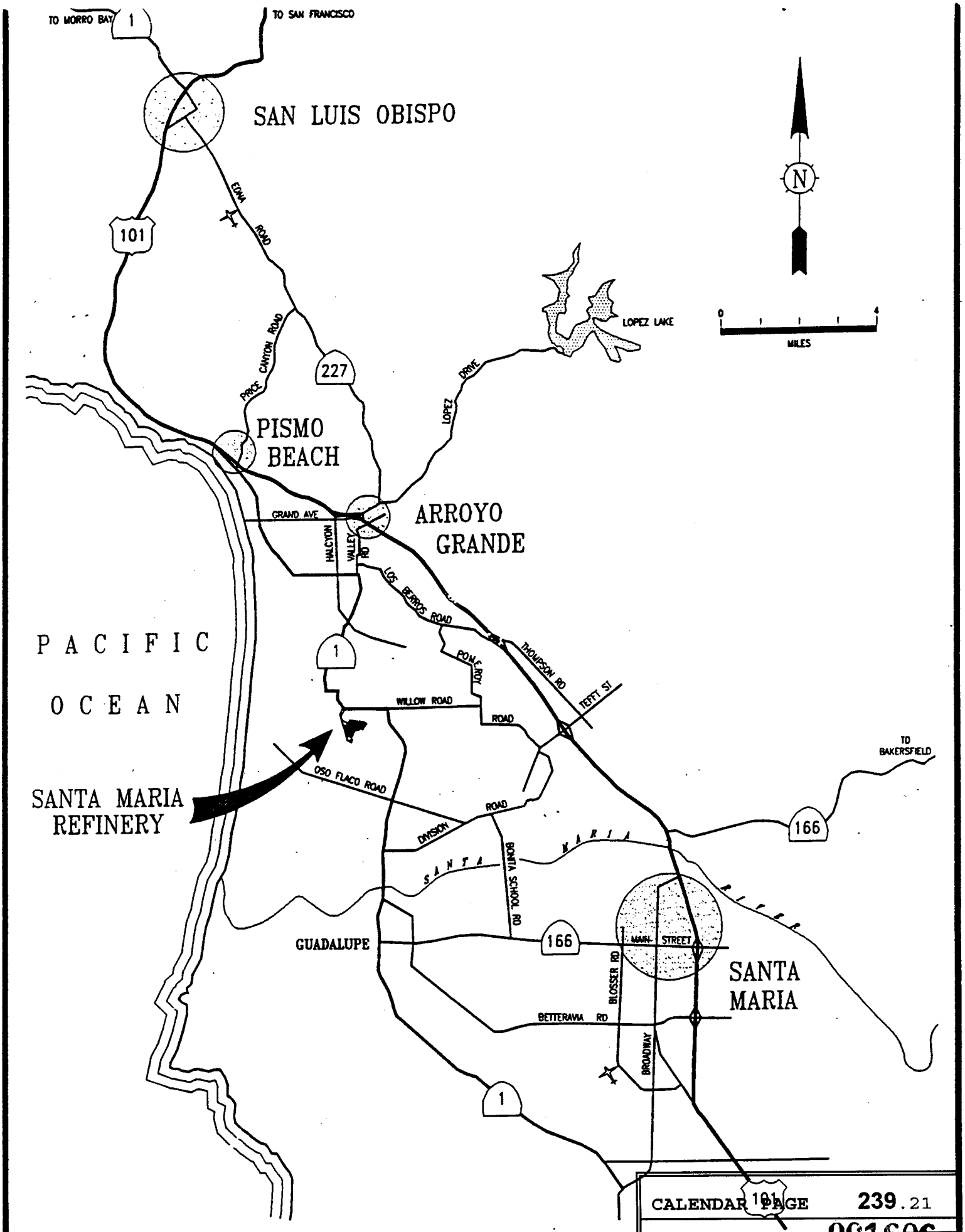

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FIGURE 1

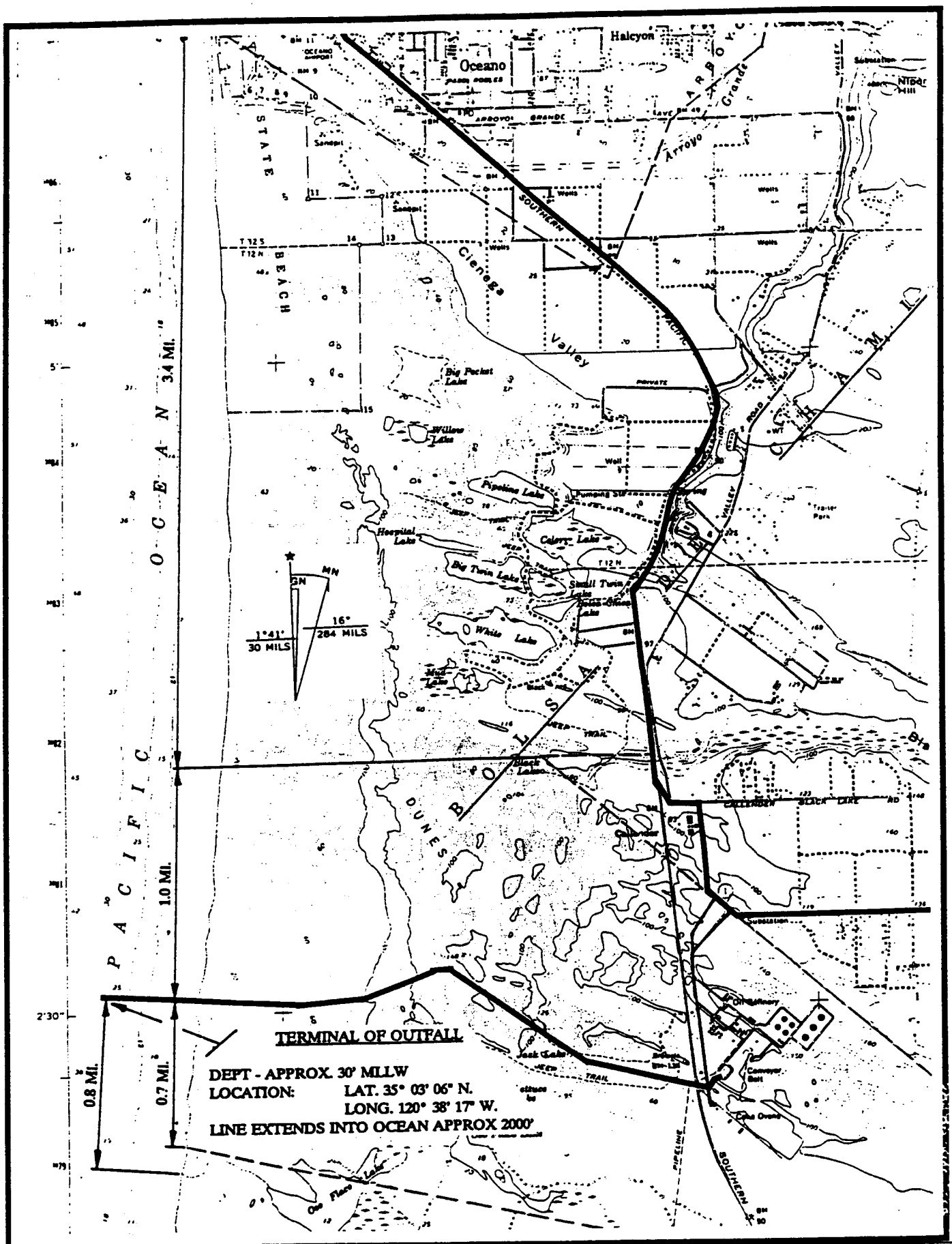

FIGURE 2

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polarization in the longshore direction, and substantial fluctuations at event (2-10 day) scales, with means which are smaller than the fluctuations (COE, 1986). Another feature of these long sandy beaches is the existence of rip current cells, which involve a net transport of water toward shore by the wave action in a given stretch, and a net return current running offshore perpendicular to the beach in a more concentrated area of the beach.

Offshore Sediment Conditions

Information on site-specific sediment grain size has been summarized from earlier NPDES reports and additional studies done by the Institute of Marine Sciences. Current permit sampling design requires a longshore gradient of sampling stations up-coast and down-coast from the mid-diffuser. Two stations are positioned up-coast from the diffuser, one at the diffuser and two down-coast. Sediments in the offshore areas adjacent to the pipeline can be characterized as fine to medium sand. Silt and clay values have historically been low, ranging from 0.95 % to 16.8 %, however, typically less than 5 %. No intertidal or off-shore hard substrate is known to occur adjacent to the present outfall.

The sea bottom seaward of the current outfall has been characterized as uniformly flat, gradually downward sloping to the west (IMR, 1956). Profiles performed in the immediate vicinity of the outfall can be characterized as fairly flat for several miles in all directions except shoreward. The area shoreward north of the Oso Flaco Lake drainage channel is characterized by flat expanse. South of the channel, the beach steepens, with more severe wave action. Winter storms tend create deep scour basins throughout the entire subtidal area.

Coarse sediments immediately adjacent to a discharge structure are a common phenomena in nearshore environments. Offshore structures such as pipelines often create scouring effects by physically inducing an increase in bottom turbulence. Significant variation in offshore grain size can also be contributed to variation in wave energy from storms and/or reductions in terrestrial particulate inputs to the nearshore zone.

Beach Sediment Conditions

Limited site-specific sediment quantitative data exists adjacent to or within the present or proposed pipeline corridors near the beach. Sandy beach habitat sampling has not been part of the recent NPDES permit. The only data that currently exists describes the beach sediment as relatively coarse sand, occupied by large numbers of the Pismo clam *Tivela stultorum* (IMR, 1956). Even though little site-specific information exists, one can provide some statements about the beach environment based on previous knowledge of this type of habitat, and these will be shown below in the section on the sandy beach environment.

Offshore Benthic Communities

Soft bottom communities in this region are made up of two biological components: epifaunal organisms found on the surface of the sediment and infaunal organisms that live in the sediment. Epifaunal organisms are generally long-lived suspension feeders that have low

successful recruitment and low predation rates (Morin et al., 1985, 1988). Infaunal communities tend to be dominated by small short-lived, opportunistic detritivores, and selective deposit feeders. Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc. has conducted previous receiving water surveys utilizing five replicate cores collected at the five previously mentioned survey sites up-and down-coast from the diffuser site. Dominant species observed near the Unocal outfall include the amphipod crustacean *Rhepoxynius menziesi* and the isopod crustacean *Tecticeps convexus* (Kinnetic Laboratories, 1993). Dominant species observed earlier, during the 1988 survey, included the sand dollar *Dendraster excentricus*, the ostracod crustacean *Euphilomedes longiseta*, and the isopod *Synchelidium shoemakeri*. These benthic communities are numerically described in the various Kinnetic Laboratory monitoring reports for each year (Kinnetic Laboratories, 1987,1988, 1989, 1991, and 1993).

The Institute of Marine Sciences (1956) conducted an oceanographic and ecological study of the surrounding area near the Unocal refinery outfall including the coastal beach region at Oso Flaco Lake immediately to the south. Five parallel transects were selected as sampling stations. Line A was designed to parallel the outfall, lines B, C, and D paralleled the outfall both up- and down- coast of the outfall, and line E ran perpendicular to the outfall axis line A. Abundant species included the olive snail *Olivella pycna*, the basket snail *Nassarius perpinguis*, and the razor clam *Siliqua patula*.

Several other soft-bottom surveys have been done in the vicinity of the proposed new outfall. Benthic infauna was examined for the San Miguel project (proposed platform Julius) and its associated pipelines. In shallow water along the proposed pipeline route the dominant organism was the sand dollar *Dendraster excentricas* (McClelland, 1985). These sand dollars are long-lived organisms with irregular recruitment and may take years to recolonize an area if they are buried by sediment.

Sandy Beach Environment

Although sandy beaches are far more numerous than other intertidal habitats, far less is known about them then rocky habitats, both inshore and offshore. Nevertheless, there is limited site-specific sandy beach data for the existing Unocal outfall pipeline. According to the early study done by the University of California, the dominant organisms were the sand crab *Emerita anologa* and the polychaete worm *Nephtys californiensis* (IMR, 1956). *Emerita, Olivella,* and *Tivela* are all common throughout California beaches (Straughan, 1980).

Shifting sands and frequent large winter waves severely impact species populations north of Point Conception. During the less severe summer months surviving organisms can suddenly increase their population size as much as 50 times over their winter populations (Chambers, 1994). One of the species of interest in the area is the Pismo clam *Tivela stultorum*. Pismo clams remain a principal fishery of the central coast, and as such were selected for toxicity studies as well as independent beach surveys.

The impacts to the marine environment of primary concern with the proposed project include:

- Interference with the littoral sand transport along shore due to the presence of the outfall line, and associated changes in the local habitats
- Disturbance of benthic infauna both nearshore along the beach and further offshore due to construction disturbances
- Adverse impacts to water quality due to increased turbidity from construction activities.

Littoral Sand Transport Effects

Large amounts of sand are transported up and down the coast, with a net transport in the project area southward and shoreward. The present outfall was constructed in the same manner as the proposed line, and was observed to be quickly buried (IMR, 1956). Recent surveys confirm that the outfall remains completely buried, except for the diffuser risers.

It is proposed to assemble the pipeline onshore, and pull it into place with a barge. Trenching will only be done on the beach itself, thereby avoiding disturbing the bottom sediments and minimizing turbidity. It is expected that the new pipeline will quickly be buried by the moving sands, both in the inshore area and further offshore.

It is judged that any littoral sand transport effects will be both temporary and local. Therefore these potential impacts are deemed to be of Low Impact, occurring in a limited area and not causing long term changes in the environment. This impact is judged to be adverse but insignificant.

Disturbance of Benthic Infauna

Construction of the proposed offshore section of pipeline and vertical diffuser risers on the sea floor will cause temporary disturbance of the sandy bottom and some localized turbidity. Due to the normally harsh environment for benthic organisms in this area due to wave action and unstable shifting sands, recovery from the slight disturbance engendered by the project would occur quickly. These organisms tend to be burrowers, and are well adapted to turbidity and sand particles. The disturbed area would also be very small, compared to the large areas of sandy bottom and miles of sandy beaches that characterize this part of the coast. The actual area of disturbance would be limited to the narrow corridor that the pipeline occupies as it is pulled offshore, the area under the diffuser, and the area disturbed by the barge anchors while the pipeline is pulled. Therefore, the large reservoir of benthic animals that exist in the area wold be available to quickly recolonize the disturbed area.

It is judged that construction would cause moderate impacts to the benthic biota, adverse

but not significant, and in a limited area. The impact would be temporary, except for the area directly under the new pipeline and diffuser. This impact is judged to be adverse but insignificant.

Impacts to Water Quality Due to Turbidity

Because of the planned methods of pipeline construction, that of pulling the completed outfall offshore, the water quality impacts due to turbidity are expected to be minimized. In addition, turbidity would not be large due to the rather coarse nature of the sands at the project site, particularly in the nearshore area. These sandy bottom areas, open to ocean swells, are naturally high-energy environments. Therefore, the organisms living in these environments are adapted to episodic turbid water conditions during storms. The turbidity associated with project construction operations would be limited to the local area, and would be very temporary in nature.

It is judged that impacts to marine water quality due to turbidity would be moderate in nature, adverse but not significant.

Air Quality

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District completed an analysis of potential air quality impacts resulting from construction of the pipeline and outfall in June of this year. The analysis focused on the ozone precursor species (reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NOX)) and included reviews of emissions from both the land based and ocean based operations. Based on the results of this analysis it appears that neither the daily or quarterly emissions are of sufficient nature or duration to exceed significance thresholds.

The marine vessels American Patriot and American Endeavor, which have been slated to perform the ocean based operations have been previously modified to lower emitting configurations under the direction of the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District for work in the Santa Barbara Channel. The comprehensive nature of the engine modifications to all engines on board helped to reduce projected NOX emissions below the significance thresholds. The District has decided not to seek additional air quality mitigations to be applied to this project. The detailed emissions inventories are available at the State Lands Commission, and can be faxed to anyone with an interest in this area.

Unocal Pipeline Outfall Replacement
Santa Maria Refinery
Summary of all sources
Units in pounds

Barry Lajoie
June 12, 1996

Summary of all sources

HC	Wrst Dy	Ave Dy	Project
Barge	2.07	0.59	8.88
Support Vessel	1.77	0.42	6.32
Winch	1.41	0.94	14.1
Welders	19.4	19.47	292
Dozer/Side Boom	4.9	3.54	53.1
Pipe Trucks	2.6	0.35	5.2
TOTAL (lb)	**32.2**	**25.3**	**379.6**

NOx	Wrst Dy	Ave Dy	Project
Barge	21.07	6.44	96.6
Support Vessel	13.31	3.16	47.4
Winch	53.6	35.73	536
Welders	10.8	10.80	162
Dozer/Side Boom	53.1	38.00	570
Pipe Trucks	10.7	1.43	21.4
TOTAL (lb)	**162.6**	**95.6**	**1433.4**

Notes:
1) Wrst Dy = Worst Case Daily Emissions
Worst case daily emissions assumes all emissions occuring on same day and each piece of equipment or process daily emissions averaged only over period of operation
2) Ave Dy = Average Daily Emissions
Average daily emissions as total project emissions averaged over 15 day project period.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

June 25, 1996

Kurt Walker
California Stated Lands Commission
100 Howe St.
Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: Air Quality Assessment Data for Unocal Pipeline Outfall Project.

Dear Mr. Walker,

The District has completed an analysis of potential air quality impacts resulting from construction of the pipeline outfall project servicing the Unocal Santa Maria Refinery. Our analysis focus's on ozone precursor species (reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx)) and includes review of the emissions from both land and sea based operations. Based on the results of our analysis, we do not anticipate quarterly or daily emissions to be of sufficient nature or duration to exceed or significance thresholds. The marine vessels American Patriot and American Endeavor, which have been slated to perform the sea based operations have been previously modified to lower emitting configurations under direction of the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District for work in the Santa Barbara Channel. The comprehensive nature of the engine modifications (essentially all diesel engines on board both boats have been configured to run cleaner), which include various combinations of timing retard, after cooling, and high pressure injector installation, helped to reduce projected NOx emissions below our significance thresholds. The District will not seek additional air quality mitigations to be applied to this project. Please feel free to contact me at 781-5912 with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Barry Lajoie

BPL/bpl

attachments

cc: Ed Breuninger, Unocal

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