

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
9:00 a.m., March 6, 2008
River Lodge Conference Center
1800 Riverwalk Drive
Fortuna, California

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Update on November 28, 2007, Fuel Spill in Freshwater Creek

DISCUSSION

On November 28, 2007 at approximately 2100 hours, a logging equipment service truck was involved in an accident on Pacific Lumber Camp Road which resulted in an estimated release of between 100-200 gallons of petroleum products to Freshwater Creek in Humboldt County. Mr. Kris Wiese of the California Department of Fish & Game was the Incident Commander. The vehicle ended up in the creek bed and no serious injuries to the two occupants were reported. Emergency response personnel were immediately notified and mobilized to the site. Reverse 911 calls to residents of Pacific Lumber Camp Road and Freshwater Road were made to warn downstream residents to not draw water from the creek until further notice. Alternative water supplies were made available to impacted residents by Steve Wills Trucking, owner of the logging service vehicle.

Northcoast Environmental Construction (NEC) staff responded to the emergency and petroleum products were pumped from the truck during the night of November 28, 2007. Hydrocarbon absorbing booms were placed at the scene of the crash and at eight other downstream locations ending at Howard Heights Bridge. Absorbent pads were placed upstream of each boom to absorb the accumulated sheen.

On November 29, 2007, the truck was removed from the creek. Vegetation located along the eastern bank of Freshwater Creek for about 30 feet up stream of the bridge was removed in order to access the truck. Visible hydrocarbon contamination was removed from all portions of the crash site, extending from the middle of the creek to several feet above the spill area. Impacted soils, water, and organic material was removed from the immediate area of the spill, placed in steel drums, and disposed under manifest at a permitted facility. Additionally, surface water samples were collected by staff and volunteers of Humboldt Baykeepers at seven locations along Freshwater Creek.

On November 30, 2007, Regional Water Board staff issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R1-2007-0105 and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2007-0106 to Steve Wills Trucking, the responsible party for the spill. SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists (SHN) were subsequently hired by Steve Wills Trucking to oversee cleanup operations and to conduct surface water and soil sampling activities. The monitoring program required surface water sampling at 11 locations along Freshwater Creek. Initial water quality samples were collected by the consultant on November 30, 2007 at four locations on the creek. The sample results indicated that only motor oil was detected at 140 ug/L (parts per billion), directly downstream of the crash site. An expanded monitoring program was initiated on Saturday, December 1, 2007 and continued daily until Friday, December 7, 2007. Surface water sampling

was conducted after three separate storm events with more than ¼ inch of rainfall. No contaminants have been found in surface water following the rainfall events.

Absorbent booms and pads were replaced as necessary. Leafy material and debris collected in front of the booms and in eddies were placed in plastic bags, removed, and properly disposed.

Beginning on Sunday, December 2, 2007 and continuing through that week, focused remediation efforts were conducted at the crash site and at "hotspot" locations downstream, where indications of petroleum products were observed. On December 3, 2007, a silt fence was constructed in the middle of Freshwater Creek, extending upstream and downstream of the crash site toward the east bank. This was to minimize the off-site transport of any sediment disturbed during cleanup activities. Sorbent pads and booms were placed inside the fence. NEC staff and SHN staff worked within the silt fence to remove debris and grease globules using sorbent pads. Leaf litter and other organic debris that produced a hydrocarbon sheen was also removed from the residence of Dr. Terry Roelof. SHN and NEC staff commenced hydraulic washing of the stream channel within the silt fence to fluidize the sorbed hydrocarbon products. The fluidized hydrocarbon products were then captured and absorbed to the sorbent booms within the containment area.

On December 4, 2007, SHN staff oversaw NEC remove booms that had been damaged during the rise in stream stage due to a storm. Also, NEC collected leaf litter that had accumulated in front of the booms. Additional cleanup activities were initiated when a sheen was observed coming from the east bank of Freshwater Creek. These activities included hand removal of sediments and organic debris and repeated hydraulic washing of the bank. The silt fence in Freshwater Creek was later removed.

On December 4, 2007, a door-to-door survey was conducted of water users, including those having direct water intakes along Freshwater Creek and groundwater wells in close proximity of the creek. This work was conducted to complete the sensitive receptor survey, as required by the CAO, to confirm the water source for all nearby residents.

On December 6, 2007, NEC again hydraulically washed the eastern bank of Freshwater Creek and a tree was removed from the confluence of Graham Gulch and Freshwater Creek. Between December 7, 2007 and December 14, 2007, daily inspections were made of booms and areas where sheen had been previously noted. Nothing was observed. On December 14, 2007 all booms were removed. Mr. Kris Wiese of the California Department of Fish & Game determined that no additional remedial activities were required.

Follow-up Activities:

On December 3, 6, and 7, 2007 during the surface water sampling, water from a tributary that feed Freshwater Creek was found to be contaminated with motor oil and diesel. Investigation indicates that the Humboldt County Corporation Yard is discharging contaminants to surface waters. Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health has issued a notice of violation and is working with the yard to abate the discharges. The discharges have continued into January and the source is under investigation by the County.

During the second week in December 2007, a meeting was held by the Humboldt County Fire Department to discuss first response to spills. The meeting was attended by the local Fire Department, Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health, SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists, Inc., and the responsible party. The issues discussed were jurisdiction, emergency equipment, cost recovery, and at what point do emergency responders hand over responsibility to a cleanup contractor. Agencies in attendance had positive comments about everyone that was involved in the Freshwater Creek cleanup response. The use of the reverse 911

notification to residences was specifically noted. This was the first time the system was used and it worked well. All were pleased. "It (clean up) was done efficiently with good cooperation from the responsible party," said Brian Cox, director of the Environmental Health Division. Mr. Cox also said the department did not receive any complaints of people, pets or livestock becoming sick from the creek.

On December 12, 2007, the county health department declared that people could resume using the creek water with some precautions. The department laid out three precautions for residents in the area who normally use water from the creek. The recommended precautions included the following:

- Water taken from the creek should be treated, to remove sediment, bacteria and viruses. Chlorination is the recommended treatment.
- People should flush their creek intake systems and wells to make sure any contaminated water that was in the systems when they were shut down was removed.
- If a fuel odor or an oily sheen is detected on water taken from a household tap, call the Department of Environmental Health immediately at 445-6215.

On December 24, 2007, Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2007-0106 was rescinded by Interim Executive Officer Robert R. Klamt.

On February 11, 2008, a final report was issued summarizing all the cleanup activities. California Department of Fish & Game staff will continue to oversee and inspect for any erosion control measures that may be required along the creek banks. After review and concurrence with the final report, Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R1-2007-0105 will be rescinded. After the normal 30 day public comment period has been completed, the site will be issued a No Further Action letter by the Executive Officer.