

Announcing Release of Draft Restoration Plan and Public Meeting on Oil Spill Restoration Projects

Dear Interested Party:

December 23, 2003

State and Federal agencies are proposing restoration projects to restore natural resources injured in the 1998 Command Oil Spill. The tanker Command spilled oil into waters outside of San Francisco Bay. The oil came ashore along the San Mateo County coast and impacted thousands of seabirds and miles of seashore, and impaired human use activities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Lands Commission, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are the Trustees for the natural resources injured by the spill. They are authorized to assess the injuries caused by the spill, to recover damages, and to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the affected natural resources. A settlement of \$5,518,000 was obtained, of which \$3,913,016 plus accrued interest was allocated to restore natural resource damages.

A Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Restoration Plan) has been developed and the Trustees are inviting public comment. To obtain a copy of the Command Oil Spill Draft Restoration Plan visit <http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/command.htm>, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/organizational/scientific/nrda/NRDA.htm>, or contact Charlene Hall, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (916) 414-6600 or by email at Charlene_Hall@fws.gov. **The Trustees will hold a public meeting on January 29, 2004 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Ocean Shore Train Depot on Higgins-Purissima Road in Half Moon Bay, CA. For directions call the Half Moon Bay Department of Parks and Recreation at (650) 726-8297.** Trustees will present the Draft Restoration Plan and accept public comment. We encourage you to share your thoughts through written comments. The public comment period ends on February 11, 2004. Comments must be received by that date to be considered. Please send comments to: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm. 2605, Sacramento, CA 95825 (facsimile 916/414-6713), or via email to Charlene_hall@fws.gov.

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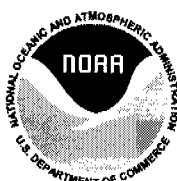
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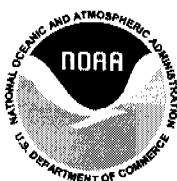
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Suite 2605
Sacramento CA 95825

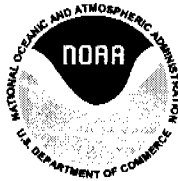


TV COMMAND OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Suite 2605
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TV COMMAND OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL



Command Trustee Council News Release

Media Contacts:

Charlene Hall, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 916-414-6739

Steve Hampton, California Department of Fish and Game: 916-323-4724

Date: December 23, 2003

Announcing Release of Draft Restoration Plan and Public Meeting on Oil Spill Settlement Restoration Projects

State and Federal agencies announce the publication of a Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft Restoration Plan) to restore natural resources injured in the 1998 Command Oil Spill. The tanker Command released oil into waters outside of San Francisco Bay. The oil came ashore along the San Mateo County coast and impacted thousands of seabirds and miles of seashore, and impaired human use activities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Lands Commission, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are the Trustees for the natural resources injured by the spill. They are authorized to assess the injuries caused by the spill, to recover damages, and to use the damages recovered to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the affected natural resources. A settlement of \$5,518,000 was obtained, of which \$3,913,016 plus accrued interest, was allocated to restore natural resource damages.

A Draft Restoration Plan has been developed and the Trustees are initiating a public comment period and will hold a public meeting to involve the public in the development of a final restoration plan. To obtain a copy of the Draft Restoration Plan visit <http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/command.htm> or <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/organizational/scientific/nrda/NRDA.htm> or contact Charlene Hall, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office at 916-414-6739 or by email at Charlene_Hall@fws.gov. **The Trustees will hold a public meeting at the Historic Ocean Shore Train Depot located on Higgins-Purissima Road in Half Moon Bay, California on January 29, 2004 from 6:30-8:00pm.** For directions please call the Half Moon Bay Department of Parks and Recreation at (650) 726-8297. Trustees will present the Draft Restoration Plan and accept public comment at the meeting. We also encourage the public to share your thoughts through written comments. The public comment period ends on February 11, 2004. Comments must be received by that date to be considered. Please send comments to: Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm. 2605, Sacramento, CA 95825 (facsimile 916/414-6713) or via email to Charlene_hall@fws.gov.

Newspaper Calendar of Events copy for Command Public Workshop

Public workshop scheduled to discuss release of Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment and discuss restoration projects for the Command Oil Spill. The workshop will be held at the historic Ocean Shore Train Depot, Higgins-Purissima Road in Half Moon Bay from 6:30 - 8:00 pm on January 29, 2004. For directions call Half Moon Bay Dept. of Parks and Recreation (650) 726-8297. For more information or for a copy of the Restoration Plan visit <http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/command.htm> or call Charlene Hall at 916-414-6739.

**COMMAND OIL SPILL DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT**

Natural Resource Trustees

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California State Lands Commission

**ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF A DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE COMMAND OIL SPILL**

December 23, 2003

Dear Interested Party:

State and Federal governments are proposing restoration projects to restore natural resources injured in the 1998 Command Oil Spill. The tanker Command spilled oil into waters outside of San Francisco Bay and oil came ashore along the coast of San Mateo County. The spill impacted thousands of seabirds, primarily Common Murres. In addition, a number of California Brown Pelicans and Marbled Murrelets were impacted along with various other seabird species. California Brown Pelicans and Marbled Murrelets are listed as threatened and/or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") (16 U.S.C. § 1533(c)), and the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & Game Code §§ 2050, *et seq.*). The also spill impaired habitat and human use along the coast of San Mateo County.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Lands Commission, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are the Trustees for the natural resources injured by the spill (Command Trustees). They are authorized by applicable federal and state law to assess the injuries caused by the Command Spill, to recover damages for these, and to use the damages recovered to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the affected natural resources.

The Command Trustees are inviting the public to comment on the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. **To obtain a copy of the Command Oil Spill Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment please contact Charlene Hall, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (916) 414-6600 or by email at Charlene.Hall@fws.gov. A copy of the document is also available online at <http://www.darenw.noaa.gov/command.htm> or <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/organizational/scientific/nrda/NRDA.htm>.**

The Trustees will hold a public meeting at the Ocean Shore Train Depot, Higgins-Purissima Road, in Half Moon Bay CA on January 29, 2004 from 6:30-8:00pm. Directions

can be obtained by calling the Half Moon Bay Department of Parks and Recreation at (650) 726-8297. At this meeting the Trustees will present a brief overview of the restoration plan and environmental assessment and accept public comment.

We encourage you to share your thoughts through written comments. Please note that any responses we receive will be considered a matter of public record and releasable under the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment period ends on February 11, 2004. Comments must be received by that date to be considered in the Final Restoration Plan. Please send comments to: Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825 facsimile 916/414-6713.

Sincerely,

The Command Trustee Council