

MARINE WILDLIFE CONTINGENCY AND TRAINING PLAN

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES CORPORATION DECOMMISSIONING OF THE GRUBB LEASE INTAKE/OUTFALL STRUCTURE VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Project No. 1802-2271

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Marine Wildlife Contingency and Training Plan (MWCTP) has been prepared in support of the California Resources Corporation (CRC) Grubb Lease Intake and Outfall Decommissioning Project (Project). The purpose of the MWCTP is to list measures that are designed to reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the proposed decommissioning activities on marine mammals, reptiles, and birds (marine wildlife). Additional mitigation and contingency measures may be incorporated into this MWCTP after the issuance of applicable Project permits.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proposed Project is located adjacent to Old Rincon Highway (Pacific Coast Highway 1 [PCH], or State Highway 1) approximately 792 feet (241.4 meters) northwest of Solimar Beach at the foot of the “A” Lease Road underpass underneath U.S. Highway 101 (Figure 1-1).

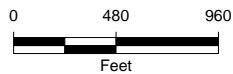
The Project objective is the removal of the pipelines and appurtenant facilities to fulfill the existing California State Lands Commission lease requirements and quit claim the lease. The Project site is comprised of two main segments; Onshore Segment and Offshore Segment. The Onshore Segment includes the onshore vault and a buried 36-inch (91.4-centimeter) casing. The Onshore Segment extends from the beach vault structure east along the casing right of way under PCH, Union Pacific Railroad and Highway 101 right-of-ways and terminates within the lower Grubb lease. The Offshore Segment extends from the beach vault to the offshore ends of the three pipelines. The pipelines terminate in water depths ranging between 12 to 14 feet (3.6 to 4.3 meters) of water.

1.2 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Operations associated with the removal of the intake and outfall pipelines and vault components are not expected to result in injury or long-term disturbance of marine wildlife. Though unlikely, there is the potential for incidents with wildlife during the transiting of work vessels to the Project site from Ventura Harbor and subtidal decommissioning activities. It is anticipated that decommissioning activities will be short-term and will be completed in shallow water depths (less than 15 feet [4.6 meters]) using a limited amount of equipment, including a dive vessel and onshore equipment, and will thus only have a limited potential to impact wildlife.



Source: CRC Basemap Figure 1-2
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
 This map was created for informational and display purposes only.



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PROJECT NAME: CRC - DECOMMISSIONING OF
 GRUBB LEASE INTAKE/OUTFALL STRUCTURE
 VENTURA COUNTY, CA

PROJECT NUMBER:
 1802-2271

DATE:
 June 2019

PROJECT LOCATION

FIGURE
 1-1

2.0 MARINE WILDLIFE

Multiple species of marine turtles, cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), and pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) have been recorded within southern California State waters. Most of the recorded species can occur within the Project region, although seasonal abundances of these taxa vary; pinnipeds and some dolphins are year-round residents. Other marine species are migratory, such as the gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), or seasonal, such as the blue and humpback whales (*Balaenoptera musculus* and *Megaptera novaeangliae*, respectively) and are more abundant during specific months. Resident, seasonal, and migrant taxa are all expected to occur along the coastline of California.

Table 2-1 provides a list of marine mammal species that could be present in the Project area during the decommissioning activities. Larger whale and dolphin species may be encountered during dive vessel mobilization and transit; however, larger marine mammals are not expected to occur within the immediate Project area. Table 2-2 provides information on the seasonal distributions in the marine wildlife community within the Project region. It is important to note that where seasonal differences occur individuals may also be found within the area during the “off” season. Also, depending on the species, the numbers of abundant animals present in their “off” season may be greater than the numbers of less common animals in their “on” season.

Table 2-1. Population Status of Marine Mammals Expected to Occur in the Project Area

| Common Name Scientific Name | Status ^{1,2} | Minimum Population Estimate | Current Population Trend | Source |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|-------------|
| MYSTICETI CETACEANS | | | | |
| California gray whale <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> | | 20,125 (Eastern North Pacific Stock) | Fluctuating annually | NMFS, 2015a |
| Humpback whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> | FE (Central America DPS) FT (Mexico DPS) ³ | 1,876 (California/Oregon/Washington Stock) | Increasing | NMFS, 2016a |
| Minke whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> | | 369 (California/Oregon/Washington Stock) | No long-term trends suggested | NMFS, 2016b |
| ODONTOCETI CETACEANS | | | | |
| Long-beaked common dolphin <i>Delphinus capensis</i> | | 68,432 (California Stock) | Unable to determine | NMFS, 2017a |
| Short-beaked common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> | | 839,325 (California/Oregon/Washington Stock) | Unable to determine | NMFS, 2017b |
| Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | | 1,255 (California/Oregon/Washington Offshore Stock) | No long-term trends suggested | NMFS, 2017c |
| | | 346 (California Coastal Stock) | No long-term trends suggested | NMFS, 2017d |
| OTARIID PINNIPEDS | | | | |
| California sea lion <i>Zalophus californianus</i> | | 153,337 (U.S. Stock) | Increasing | NMFS, 2015b |
| PHOCID PINNIPEDS | | | | |
| Pacific harbor seal <i>Phoca vitulina richardsi</i> | | 27,348 (California Stock) | Decreasing | NMFS, 2015c |

Notes DPS = Distinct Population Segment

¹ **Status Codes:**

FE Federally listed Endangered Species

FT Federally listed Threatened Species

² All marine mammals are Federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

³ Individuals from both the Central America and Mexico DPS are known to feed along the California coast.

Table 2-2. Periods of Occurrence of Marine Mammals Expected to Occur in the Project Area

| Family Common Name | Month of Occurrence ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| Mysticeti | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| California gray whale | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humpback whale (E - Central America DPS) (T – Mexico DPS) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minke whale | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Odontoceti | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Short-beaked common dolphin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-beaked common dolphin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bottlenose dolphin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pinnipedia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| California sea lion | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pacific harbor seal | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>Rare with uniform distribution</div> <div>Not expected to occur</div> <div>More likely to occur due to seasonal distribution</div> <div>Present Year Round</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Notes:

(E) Federally listed endangered species.

(T) Federally listed threatened species.

(1) Where seasonal differences occur, individuals may also be found in the “off” season. Also, depending on the species, the numbers of abundant animals present in their “off” season may be greater than the numbers of less common animals in their “on” season.

3.0 MITIGATIONS AND MONITORING

3.1 PRE-ACTIVITY ENVIRONMENTAL ORIENTATION

A biologist will present an environmental orientation for all Project personnel prior to conducting work. The purpose of the orientation is to educate Project personnel on identification of wildlife likely to be encountered in the Project area and to provide an overview of the wildlife mitigation measures that will be implemented during the Project. Specifically, the orientation will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Identification of wildlife expected to occur in the Project area and periods of occurrence along the Santa Barbara Channel coast;
- Overview of the MMPA, FESA, CESA regulatory agencies responsible for enforcement of the regulations, and penalties associated with violations;
- Procedures to be followed during activities that are most likely to affect marine wildlife (i.e., mobilization/demobilization, transiting and anchoring of Project vessels); and
- Reporting requirements in the event of an inadvertent collision and/or injury to a marine mammal or sensitive habitats.

3.2 MONITORING AND MITIGATIONS

3.2.1 Marine Wildlife Monitor

Marine wildlife monitoring will be conducted by trained Marine Wildlife Monitor (MWM) who will be stationed on the Project dive support vessel during all offshore Project activities including vessel transit, anchoring, pre-Project surveys, and active pipeline recovery activities. The MWM will be experienced in marine wildlife identification and able to describe relevant behaviors that may occur in proximity to in-water construction activities. The MWM will be placed at the best vantage point practical to monitor for marine wildlife and will be in direct communication with lead Project manager and vessel captain in case shutdown/delay procedures need to be implemented. The MWM will have the appropriate safety and monitoring equipment to conduct their observations, including low-light reticulated binoculars and a spotting scope, as necessary. One MWM will be present during all nearshore in water Project operations; however, if conditions change that reduce the MWMs ability to monitor the entire offshore Project area then additional MWMs will be retained to provide complete coverage. The MWM(s) will be authorized to stop work, stop the vessel, or slowing of the vessel's speeds to avoid marine wildlife conflicts.

3.2.2 Vessel Transit and Mobilization

The area in and around the Santa Barbara Channel supports local populations of marine wildlife. The most common species likely to occur during Project activities, includes: short- and long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphis delphis* and *Delphis capensis*, respectively), Pacific white-

sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), California sea lion (*Zalophus californicus*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), California gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and occasionally sea turtles (Cryptodira). The mobilization and demobilization will involve Project dive vessel(s) traveling to and from Ventura Harbor located approximately 6.8 nautical miles (12.7 km) south of the Project site. In general, vessels will remain at least 300 feet (91.4 meters) from marine mammals while in transit, which is the recommended distance set by NOAA Fisheries, to minimize the chance of collision or disturbance.

Dolphins are typically identified from a distance due to the surface disturbance created as they swim. Dolphins generally tolerate or even approach vessels, and reactions to boats often appear to be related to the dolphins' normal activity. Dolphins will often swim alongside a moving vessel, riding the bow or stern wake. If dolphins are observed swimming immediately adjacent to the vessel, the vessel would slow down and keep a steady course until the dolphins lose interest.

Pinnipeds' responses to vessels can vary; however, sea lions in the water often tolerate close and frequent approach vessels. California sea lions are the only pinniped within the Project area that regularly haul-out on man-made structures such as docks, buoys, oil and gas structures and even slow-moving vessels. Harbor seals who are hauled-out will often retreat into the water in response to approaching boats. In addition, less severe disturbances can cause alert reactions without departure from the haul-out area.

Cetaceans (whales) vary in their swimming patterns and duration of dives and therefore the onboard marine wildlife monitors and all shipboard personnel will be watchful as the vessel crosses the path of a whale or anytime whales are observed in the area.

Once arriving and anchoring on-site, the dive support vessel will be stationary; therefore, collisions with marine wildlife are very unlikely in the immediate Project area. However, the potential exists for such collisions when transiting to the Project site. The following measures and procedures will be implemented to minimize the possibility of such collisions.

Vessel operators and on-board personnel will be watchful for marine mammals and turtles during vessel transit and Project activities. Slower moving and surface-dwelling turtles and larger cetaceans could potentially be affected. More common marine mammals in the Project area, such as dolphins and pinnipeds, would be agile enough to avoid vessels. Regardless, all vessel operators shall observe the following guidelines:

- Make every effort to maintain the appropriate separation distance from sighted whales and other marine wildlife (e.g., sea turtles);
- Do not cross directly in front of (perpendicular to) migrating whales or any other marine mammal or turtle;
- When paralleling whales, vessels will operate at a constant speed that is not faster than that of the whales;

- Care will be taken to ensure that female whales are not to be separated from their calves; and
- If a whale engages in evasive or defensive action, vessels will reduce speed or stop until the animal calms or moves out of the area.

During vessel transit, the vessel operator and MWM will monitor the course of travel for fishing gear and will take steps to avoid any gear observed. Work activities will not occur within 100 feet of observed fishing gear and the Project crew will not remove or relocate any fishing gear; removal or relocation shall only be accomplished by the owner of the gear or a designated CDFW officer.

3.2.3 Anchoring

Offshore work will be initiated by the anchoring of the dive support vessel over the terminus of the intake and outfall structures as detailed in the Project Marine Safety and Anchoring Plan (Longitude 123, 2019). The anchoring of the dive vessel will include placement of three mooring anchors into pre-designated anchor spreads. The coordinates of all pre-designated anchor locations will be entered into a differential Global Positioning System (GPS) system onboard the dive support vessel to ensure anchors are placed at those locations only. The anchors will be lowered to the seafloor by the crown line at the pre-designated site, and the anchor will be raised vertically by the crown line for transport back to the support barge when the anchors are “weighed” (lifted off of the seafloor). Vertical deployment of anchors to and from location eliminates unnecessary anchor wire contact with the seafloor. It should be noted that at no time will the contractor be permitted to drag anchors across the sea floor.

Immediately prior to lowering the anchors into position, the MWM will scan the Project area for the presence of any marine wildlife. This measure is intended to avoid potential impacts associated with lowering of vessel anchors (i.e., anchors and chain lengths could potentially injure marine wildlife). In the event marine wildlife are identified within the Project area, anchoring procedures will be delayed until the animal(s) move a safe distance from the Project area, as determined by the marine wildlife monitor.

3.2.4 Offshore Construction Activities

During offshore construction, all marine operations will be conducted per the procedures outlined in the Marine Safety and Anchoring Plan incorporated into the Contractor Work Plan, and which emphasizes “good mariner practices.” Further, every effort to avoid approaching and disturbing marine mammals in the water or at rest should be conducted. However, in the unlikely event that a marine wildlife is observed proximal to decommissioning activities, the MWM will observe the animal and will alter or cease onboard operations if the animal may be directly or indirectly affected.

3.2.5 Monitoring Safety Zone Radius

During active pipeline recovery operations, the MWM shall establish avoidance Safety Zones around the primary work area for the protection of marine wildlife. A 500-foot (152-meter) radius avoidance Safety Zone will be implemented, and the Safety Zone will be based on the radial distance from either side of the pipeline corridor that is being actively removed and/or the divers' work area. If the MWM should observe marine wildlife within the Safety Zone, the behavior of marine animal will be monitored, and the CRC Field Supervisor or Project Manager will be alerted of the potential for an imminent shut down. If the marine animal within the Safety Zone displays abnormal behaviors or distress, the monitor will immediately report that observation to the CRC Field Supervisor who will shut-down operations, if deemed necessary by the MWM, unless those actions will jeopardize the safety of the vessel or crew. Distress can be defined as any abnormal behavior that appears to be related to Project operations such as sudden change in direction, rapid breathing, and sudden or erratic changes in behavior. The MWM will have the authority to stop any work that is perceived to be harming marine wildlife.

3.2.6 Pre- and Post-Decommissioning Debris Surveys

A pre-Project geophysical debris survey was conducted prior to Project planning and permitting to verify the alignment and existing conditions of the offshore pipelines. A post-Project debris survey will be conducted following removal of the pipelines utilizing low-energy geophysical equipment within the offshore facilities lease boundary. The purpose of the pre-Project debris survey is to provide a baseline image of the seafloor that can be used to check against the results of a post-Project debris survey to ensure that any decommissioning-related debris is identified and recovered. The post-decommissioning survey will aid in identifying any targeted debris items that were missed or created by the decommissioning operations. Surveys utilizing geophysical equipment, such as multi-beam echosounders, fall under the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) Low Energy Offshore Geophysical Permit Program (OGPP). Debris surveys will be conducted by a currently permitted operator, and prior to the initiation each survey, a separate, survey-specific MWCTP will be prepared in accordance with a CSLC issued Low-Energy Geophysical Permit.

3.3 PROJECT LIGHTING

Nighttime work is not anticipated during the Project; however, if lighting is required for work in low light conditions, specific impact avoidance measures will be implemented, as necessary. To minimize potential impacts on marine wildlife and resting shore birds, lighting will be low intensity and directed downward to conduct specific tasks. Direct illumination of wildlife will be avoided, and when possible, green lighting will be used to reduce attraction to the lights and equipment.

4.0 PROCEDURE FOR INJURED OR DECEASED WILDLIFE

4.1 COLLISION WITH MARINE WILDLIFE

In the event a collision with marine mammal or reptile occurs, the vessel captain must document the conditions under which the accident occurred, including the following:

- Location (latitude and longitude) of the vessel when the collision occurred;
- Date and time of collision;
- Speed and heading of the vessel at the time of collision;
- Observation conditions (e.g., wind speed and direction, swell height, visibility in miles or kilometers, and presence of rain or fog) at the time of collision;
- Species of marine wildlife contacted (if known);
- Whether an observer was monitoring marine wildlife at the time of collision; and
- Name of vessel, vessel owner/operator (the company), and captain or officer in charge of the vessel at time of collision.

In the event a collision occurs, the vessel will stop, if safe to do so. However, the vessel is not obligated to stand by and may proceed after confirming that it will not further damage the marine wildlife by doing so. The vessel operator will then communicate by radio or telephone all details to the vessel's base of operations.

From the vessel's base of operations, a telephone call will be placed immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast (California) Stranding Coordinator in Long Beach (Table 4-1) to obtain instructions. Alternatively, the vessel captain may contact the NMFS Stranding Coordinator directly using the marine operator to place the call or directly from an onboard telephone, if available.

The MMPA requires that collisions with, or other project-related impacts to, marine wildlife will be reported promptly to the NMFS Stranding Coordinator. From the report, the NMFS Stranding Coordinator will coordinate subsequent action, including enlisting the aid of CDFW and/or marine mammal rescue organizations, if necessary.

It is unlikely that the vessel will be asked to stand by until NOAA Fisheries or CDFW personnel arrive; however, this will be determined by the NOAA Fisheries Stranding Coordinator. According to the MMPA, the vessel operator is not allowed to aid injured marine wildlife or recover the carcass unless requested to do so by the Stranding Coordinator.

Although NOAA Fisheries has primary responsibility for marine wildlife in both State and Federal waters, the CDFW will also be advised if an incident has occurred in State waters affecting a protected species. NOAA, CSLC, and CDFW will be notified within 24 hours upon any collision with marine wildlife. Reports will be communicated to the Federal and State agencies listed in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Collision Contact Information

| Federal | State | |
|---|--|--|
| Justin Viezbicke Stranding Coordinator NOAA Fisheries Service Long Beach, California (562) 980-3230 | Enforcement Dispatch Desk California Department of Fish and Wildlife Los Alamitos, California (562) 590-5132 | California State Lands Commission Sacramento, California (916) 574-1900 |

5.0 OBSERVATION RECORDING AND MONITORING REPORT

The MWM will record observations on data forms and will photo-document observations whenever possible. Throughout the Project, observers will prepare a daily report summarizing the recent results of the monitoring program or at such other intervals as required by regulatory and resource agencies. The reports will summarize the species, number of marine wildlife sighted, and any required actions taken. A Project completion technical report will be prepared and provided to the appropriate agencies, if requested. The report will document Project activities, evaluate the effectiveness of monitoring protocols, report marine wildlife sightings (species and numbers), any wildlife behavioral changes, and any Project delays or cessation of operations due to the presence of marine wildlife in the Project area. The report will be submitted to CSLC and any other appropriate agencies no more than 90 days following completion of the Project.

6.0 REFERENCES

- Longitude, 123. Marine Safety and Anchoring Plan for CRC Decommissioning of Grubb Lease Intake/Outfall Structures. June 2019.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2017a. Long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*) California Stock. Revised February 10, 2017.
- _____. 2017b. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) California/Oregon/Washington Stock. Revised February 7, 2017.
- _____. 2017c. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Common Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus truncatus*) California/Oregon/Washington Offshore Stock. February 7, 2017.
- _____. 2017d. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Common Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) California Coastal Stock. February 9, 2017.
- _____. 2016a. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) California/Oregon/Washington Stock. Revised September 21, 2016.
- _____. 2016b. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata scammoni*) California/Oregon/Washington Stock. Revised August 16, 2016.
- _____. 2015a. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) Eastern North Pacific Stock. Revised July 31, 2015.
- _____. 2015b. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*): U.S. Stock. Revised June 30, 2015.
- _____. 2015c. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina richardii*) California Stock. Revised July 31, 2015.