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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Quality Following the Refugio Oil Spill Incident

Following the Refugio Oil Spill Incident on May 19, 2015, there have been a number of questions regarding ocean water quality in Santa Barbara County. In response to specific requests for this information, a summary of water sampling will be made public and posted on the Public Health Department website at www.sbcphd.org.

Water quality testing began May 20, 2015 and has continued on a daily basis. The summary report covers more than 200 water quality testing samples collected between May 20, 2015, and June 9, 2015, at coastline locations east and west of the incident site. The results of water sampling indicate no exceedances of health-based surface water screening values at any time. The coastline water sampling results indicate that the screened compounds do not pose a risk to human health. Because there is no ongoing release at the incident site, it is unlikely that water quality will be affected by this incident at a later date in time.

All water sampling is conducted under a Unified Command-approved sampling plan. Collected water samples are submitted to an independent laboratory for analysis of various compounds. The water sampling results are being reviewed by a multi-agency team of experts, including health professionals and toxicologists.

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