



Unified Command  
***For Immediate Release***

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### **Unified Command working to remove crude oil from Cuyama River following Santa Maria tanker truck spill**

**Santa Maria, Calif.** – On March 21, a tanker truck collision on Highway 166 resulted in up to 6,000 gallons of crude oil being released into the Cuyama River, a tributary of the Santa Maria River. A Unified Command has been established to oversee cleanup operations.

A rapid response helped contain the oil upstream from Twitchell Dam and Reservoir, and contractors worked all day Saturday and through the night to construct underflow dams and build a gravel access road so that vacuum trucks can remove the crude oil at the dam sites. The trucks are currently working to remove as much oil as possible before today's forecasted rain.

The Unified Command includes officials from the, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and Petrol Transport, Inc.

The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) has been activated to support the response. Reports of oiled wildlife are being investigated.

An incident webpage has been launched, at [CalSpillWatch.com](http://CalSpillWatch.com), to provide information and photos as they become available.

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