

Dunsmuir Railyard Shoreline Response Action and Restoration Project Update



Project Background

A Unified Command with representatives from federal and state agencies and Union Pacific Railroad is leading environmental cleanup and restoration activities at the Dunsmuir Railyard. The work is focused on stopping oil from releasing to the Sacramento River from historic operations. The project was also designed to increase river capacity and provide more habitat for fish and wildlife. It involves soil excavation, removing a retaining wall, re-sloping the bank, and restoring native vegetation. Cleanup activities through the end of 2023 successfully removed over 100,000 tons of impacted soil and over 58,000 gallons of oil from the site.



The facility has operated since the early 1900s and was once equipped with a 2.3 million gallon Bunker C fuel storage tank, and later a 200,000 gallon diesel tank. UPRR acquired the property from Southern Pacific in 1996 and has since transitioned away from fuel storage.

For more information about the project's history, please visit:

calspillwatch.wildlife.ca.gov or
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000005772.



CalSpillWatch



GeoTracker

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Current Operations and Public Health Assessment Updates

During operations to remove oil-impacted soil along the shoreline, residents may notice cloudy water and oil sheens from intermittent releases of disturbed sediment that increases turbidity levels downstream. Crews are maintaining an in-river isolation barrier, a silt curtain, and oil spill containment and sorbent boom within the project area to limit impacts to the river.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency evaluated surface water sample data and determined that concentrations did not exceed risk-based screening levels for recreational activity based on being in the water 4 days/week and 3 hours/day. Although the evaluation **does not indicate a risk to public health**, out of an abundance of caution, avoid contact with the river if there is visible oil sheening and/or cloudy water.

The state Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) also conducted an evaluation and does not recommend a fishery closure at this time. While more data is being collected, OEHHA advises avoiding consuming fish caught in areas of visible sheen or odor.



An in-river isolation barrier is installed along the shoreline to help limit impacts to the river.

Learn more about the response at a Community Open House

August 26, 2024: 6:00-7:30pm
Dunsmuir Community Center
4835 Dunsmuir Ave. Dunsmuir, CA 96025

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