CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERIES CLOSURE
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY AN OIL SPILL AFFECTING MARINE WATERS

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 5654, I find and declare that:

I.

On May 19, 2015 a pipeline break released approximately 500 barrels of heavy crude oil affecting Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, as well as shorelines to the east and west. The responsible party has been identified as Plains All American.

II.

Adequate information is not currently available for OEHHA to determine the potential threat to public health from fishing or shellfish harvesting in the affected area or from consuming fish or shellfish from the area. OEHHA recommends that a fishing and shellfish harvesting closure be initiated for the coastal area near Refugio State Beach, pending receipt of additional information to determine the degree and nature of any potential public health threat posed by the spill. The closure extends from approximately 1 mile west of the beach (near the intersection of Highway 101 and Calle Real Road) to approximately 1 mile east of the beach (near the intersection of Highway 101 and Venadito Canyon Road), and includes the shoreline and offshore areas between these points to ¼ mile offshore. Additionally, OEHHA is advising that fishers avoid fishing in areas where there is visible sheen on the water.

III.

THEREFORE, in consultation with OEHHA, I hereby order that a fisheries closure be initiated for the shoreline from one mile to the east to one mile to the west of Refugio State Beach and to a distance of ¼ mile offshore. This closure is effective immediately. This closure prohibits the take of finfish and shellfish either from shorelines or from vessels on the water. Attached hereto is a map of the current closed area.

IV.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees or any other person.

Thomas M. Cullen, Jr., OSPR Administrator for
Charlton H. Bonham, Director

5/19/15  1948
Date/Time

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