

CLEANING UP THE BEACHES, WHETHER OIL OR TRASH...



Image from Planck Aerosystems flyovers. Photo: Gaemus Collins, Planck Aerosystems. (Inset: Becker Well bubbling up onto the beach. Photo: Nora McNeely Hurley)

MORE ON SUMMERLAND OIL MESS

In January 2017 Heal the Ocean contracted with **Aqueos Subsea**, an internationally recognized offshore dive company, to conduct an aerial/dive survey of the offshore Summerland oil field, which in 2014 became seriously active in leaking oil onto Summerland Beach. This survey, designed and overseen by the **State Lands Commission**, which owns all improperly abandoned oil wells in California, has brought on **Planck Aerosystems** and **Ira Leifer**, a UCSB researcher who has a history of studying the Summerland oil problem.

On March 3, 2017 Planck Aerosystems drone pilot **Gaemus Collins** made the first flight over the area, and subsequent flights will result in a grid that pinpoints areas of hydrocarbon (oil) leakage. These priority sites will then be investigated by an Aqueos dive team working underwater with high-tech equipment that can detect oil leaks.

The aerial survey has been estimated to run until June or July 2017, with the diving survey to begin immediately afterward.

The goal of these two surveys is to have priority sites ready for **Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's SB44 "Legacy Oil Well"** bill which, if



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The HTO-assembled team watching a drone launch at Lookout Park, Summerland successfully passed, will provide \$2 million a year for the proper capping and cleanup of abandoned oil wells along the California coast.

Both the aerial and dive portions of the Aqueos work have been funded by the **Manitou Fund**, Minnesota, the family foundation of **Nora McNeely Hurley**, who lives in Summerland with her husband **Michael Hurley**. Both ocean lovers, Nora and Michael were thrilled to move to Summerland Beach, but were immediately horrified at the oil situation there. Nora contacted HTO with her concerns, and when she learned of HTO's work on the issue, she went to her family foundation with a proposal to support the surveys, as well as make a significant contribution to HTO for our work coordinating a rescue for Summerland Beach. *Thank you, Nora! Thank you, Michael!*

Meanwhile, as this newsletter goes to press, the \$700,000 needed by the State Lands Commission to begin the \$1.4 million project of capping the notorious **Becker Well** (see inset photo above) is looking to be secured by SLC in the state budget hearing process. HTO thanks all of our supporters who are taking time to write and send in letters of support for the budgetary request by SLC! And thank you, too, for the letters needed to support Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's SB44 bill.



Hillary Hauser, Michael Hurley, Nora McNeely Hurley, and State Lands Commission petroleum drilling engineer Steve Curran

SB 44 - OIL CLEANUP

At the end of 2016 **Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's SB 900** to clean up improperly capped "legacy wells" along the California Coast was vetoed at the last minute by Governor Jerry Brown. Our intrepid Senator Jackson listened to his reasoning, then turned right around and introduced **SB 44**. Like the earlier version, the new legislation makes provisions for providing \$2 million per year to cap leaking oil wells along the California coast, but differs from the previous bill in that the funds would come from the already-appropriated budget within the State Lands Commission rather than the General Fund. *Thank you, Senator Jackson!*

MIRAMAR OIL FROM SUMMERLAND?

When oil began appearing in the waves off Miramar Beach, HTO supporter **Brad Hall** paddled out and grabbed a sample of the dirty seawater in a jar, which we picked up and sent to a lab for analysis. Was it bilge from a passing boat, or 100% oil drifting up from Summerland? It was also suggested that the oil might be coming from somewhere else. HTO contracted with **Blue Tomorrow** consultants to determine a source. With the help of UCSB oceanographer/researcher **Carter Ohlmann**, the Blue Tomorrow report did not conclusively pinpoint a source, but provided information on how oil can be transported along the coastline as well as areas where it may likely wash up on shore.



GET INVOLVED!

If you and your friends would like to clean a beach or are looking to fulfill community service hours, HTO will supply bags and sturdy garden gloves. Give us a call at 965-7570 or email corey@healththeocean.org to arrange your project.

HTO BEACH-CLEAN TEAMS WORK ALL YEAR ROUND!

HOORAY for Heal the Ocean supporters and volunteers who go out all year long to clean trash and off of Santa Barbara county beaches from Goleta to Rincon! They don't wait for any special day. They call our offices and volunteer. We supply re-usable gloves and trash bags – and away they go with a group leader. We get reports of what they pick up, along with photos. This is a great HTO-public partnership!

Our wonderful HTO Beach-Clean Teams and Individuals this past year include:

- **Maire Radis**, who goes out EVERY Sunday to clean up the Santa Claus Lane beach;
- **Barbara Popp**, who picks up trash all year long during her walks on Summerland beach;
- **After School Program of the Salvation Army** students, 40 in all, who picked up everything from styrofoam and plastic bits to old shoes at East Beach;
- **Procure**, a Carpinteria-based company that produces construction management software, put together a program to send hundreds of employees to comb the beaches of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara on June 2, 2017;
- **EF International Language School**, which for the second year in a row partnered with HTO in a massive cleanup of 10 beaches between Goleta and Summerland. The entire student body (350 beach-cleaners!) tackled the project on April 28, 2017 as part of EF International's *Every Day is Earth Day* campaign.

BRAVO TO ALL!



1) Barbara Popp, a Summerland resident, regularly picks up trash like this during her walks on Summerland Beach; 2) HTO supporters haul bags of trash from Loon Point; 3) Maire Radis picks up trash at Santa Claus Lane every Sunday!; 4-6) Salvation Army after school program beach clean at East Beach; 7) EF International School beach cleanup on April 28, 2017.

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