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UNOCAL CORP
Form 8-K
January 14, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

Current Report Pursuant
to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported) January 13, 2004

UNOCAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-8483

95-3825062

(Commission File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2141 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 4000, El Segundo, California

90245

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

(310) 726-7600

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Item 5. Other Events.

Puma Discovery

Unocal Corporation (the "Company") announced that the exploratory well in the Puma prospect, operated by BP PLC ("BP") in Green Canyon block 823, is a significant discovery in a hydrocarbon-rich area near existing developments.

Drilled to a depth of 19,034 feet, the Puma discovery well encountered

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approximately 500 net feet of oil pay in Miocene-age reservoirs. Two subsequent sidetrack bores encountered oil in reservoir intervals of a similar age. Initial indications of reservoir productivity are encouraging, based on preliminary analysis of sidewall cores and fluid samples taken from the well. The Puma discovery's proximity to the Mad Dog field allows the option of either a stand-alone development or a tie-back, depending on future appraisal results. Puma is structurally complex and will require additional seismic data and appraisal drilling to determine the size of the field. The BP-operated Puma well lies immediately to the west of the Mad Dog development (Green Canyon 826), where production startup is planned for early 2005.

The Puma well was spud on August 14th and was drilled in 4,130 feet of water. As operator, BP holds a 51.66 percent working interest in this prospect. The Company holds 15 percent, and the remaining 33.34 percent is held by BHP Billiton Ltd.

Drilling of Hawkes Prospect Well in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico

A second well at the Hawkes prospect in Mississippi Canyon block 508 encountered non-commercial quantities of hydrocarbons and has been plugged and abandoned. The Company will take a pre-tax charge of approximately \$8 million to fourth quarter 2003 earnings for this well.

This filing contains certain forward-looking statements about Unocal's assessment of the quality of the hydrocarbon formation. These statements are not guarantees of future performance. The statements are based upon Unocal's current expectations and beliefs and are subject to a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward looking statements. Actual results could differ materially as a result of factors discussed in Unocal's 2002 Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

UNOCAL CORPORATION
(Registrant)

Date: January 14, 2004

By: /s/ JOE D. CECIL

Joe D. Cecil
Vice President and Comptroller