

**2-269-A Site Summary - Tunitas Beach and Creek****2-269-A****County:** San Mateo **ACP Division/Segment:** SM - N - S008**NOAA Chart:** 18680 Point Sur to San Francisco Bay **Map Book:** SF Bay and Delta **Decimal Degrees:** 37.356582 -122.399131**Site Description:**

Site includes Tunitas Creek mouth and lagoon with an additional mile of beach bounded north and south by steep, rocky headlands. The area is within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The beach is a broad, fine-grain beach with steep cliffs. The lagoon behind the beach is deep and surrounded with dense riparian growth. The creek discharges across the beach in a braided channel (seasonal). The beach and creek mouth are very isolated by private property. Due to the difficulty of access to private ownership restrictions and steep cliffs, these two habitats of concern are combined as a single, tactical site and will require direction and arrangements thru IC/UC to provide safe access.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 3B Scarps and steep slopes in sand

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Oct
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	nightsmelt		Year-round	Feb-Jul
Fish	surf smelt		Year-round	May-Aug
Plants	Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE, SE	Year-round	Jul-Oct
Reptiles	San Francisco garter snake	FE, SE	Year-round	Apr-Sep

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
O	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	California Coastal Commission	(415) 693-8375
O	/Dispatch, 24-hr	California State Parks	(916) 358-1300
O	/Dispatch, 24-hr	San Mateo Co. Dept. of Emergency Management	(650) 363-4963
T	/Agency Representative	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	(831) 649-2884
T	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 678-4943
T	/Agency Representative, 24-hr	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	(650) 479-5311

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

First concern is oil being washed into Tunitas Creek lagoon. Second concern is possible penetration and burial of oil into beach sands which would damage or destroy smelt eggs. Also of concern is disturbance of shorebirds, particularly the plovers which live in the high beach and wrack line. Access is limited and dangerous except through very restricted private ownership. Contact IC for access to gain access through private ownerships.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

This site has very steep cliffs with limited access. Keep all personnel away from base of cliffs. Locked gate and potential fire hazard area.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: 0**

**Strategy: 2-269.1 Objective:** Offshore containment and recovery activities to minimize or avert oil from impacting shoreline habitats and wildlife

**Strategy:** This site is difficult to protect as is most of the outer coast. Mechanical shoreline protection techniques are not likely to be effective because of high wave energy and/or rocky conditions at this site. Consider the use of ARTs.

- a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery.
- b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update**

**Strategy: 2-269.2 Objective:** Exclude oil from creek using boom when surf and flow conditions may admit oil to creek.

**Strategy:** Protect creek and lagoon with swamp boom and sorbents to collect along edge as far seaward as possible. Review and report on the possibility and advisability of using pompoms for tarballs collection. Access is a problem here: get instructions/access from IC.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		200	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			200	feet	
Boom	Oil Snare (pom-pom)			200	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		6		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Strategy: 2-269.3 Objective:** Exclude oil from creek by diking when surf and flow conditions may admit oil to creek.

**Strategy:** Exclude oil from lagoon by hand constructed dike using sediments. A syphon or flow-through culvert may be necessary to allow outflow. Access is a problem here: get instructions/access from IC.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Heavy Equip	Bobcat w/ tracks			1		
culvert		12 inch		3		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			3		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** South on Hw1 from Hwy 92. Drive 3/10 mile past Tunitas Bridge and turn right into private road with locked gate. Access is very restricted: contact UC for access assistance and instructions.

**Land Access:** 4WD steep dirt road behind locked gate north of creek.

**On-Water Limitations:** Very limited by this site access from south beach at low tide. Nearest boat launching is Pillar Pt

Harbor.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Parking along Hwy 1 at top of high cliffs.

*Communications Problems:* Cell reception varies along coastline. For best reception, head up to Hwy 1 (Cabrillo Hwy).

*Additional Operational Comments:* Cell communications on the beach are minimal but are outstanding on the hwy above and south of Tunitas Creek.

