

**2-271-A Site Summary - Mussel Rock to San Gregorio Beach****2-271-A****County:** San Mateo **ACP Division/Segment:** SM - N - S009**NOAA Chart:** 18680 Point Sur to San Francisco Bay **Map Book:** AAA San Mateo C **Decimal Degrees:** 37.322561 -122.402671**Site Description:**

Site is the beach from of San Gregorio Creek 1.8 miles north to rocky headland (Mussel Rock). The area is within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. San Gregorio Beach is under State Parks Management. The beach is very broad, up to 150 yards wide, with an extensive back beach, except at San Gregorio Creek where the cliffs are near the sea. At San Gregorio Creek the waves come to the cliff base at high tide but is drivable at low tide. The entire beach is backed with steep cliffs. Sand grain varies from medium to coarse with corresponding variation in beach slope and scallop. The back beach is littered with large woody debris. There is a single private access (4WD) at midbeach granting landowners access to their portion of the back beach.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

1C Exposed rocky cliffs with boulder talus base

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Oct
Fish	nightsmelt		Year-round	Feb-Jul
Fish	surf smelt		Year-round	May-Aug

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:**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name/Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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:**

The prime concern is oil penetration or burial on the beach which is a threat to smelt eggs buried in the surf zone of the beach. There may also be endangered western snowy plovers in the debris line and the back beach. Contact ecologists to establish traffic corridors before putting vehicles on the beach.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Portions of the beach are covered at high tide. Aggressive surf and rock falling from cliffs are main hazards. Keep all personnel away from cliff base.

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

**Strategy: 2-271.1 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.

- 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****Logistics:**

**Directions:** Site is about 12 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1: access from San Gregorio Creek State Beach pullout (contact State Parks for vehicle access to beach): beach is drivable with 4WD and passable during low low tides. Other access may be available through private ownerships.

**Land Access:** 4WD/ATV access at low tide at San Gregorio parking lot -DPR permission.

**On-Water Limitations:** None known, nearest launch/support is Pillar Pt Harbor. Possible beach launching from Martins Beach in optimal conditions.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** San Gregorio State Park parking lot.

**Communications Problems:** Best cell reception up near Hwy 1, on beaches cell reception varies.

**Additional Operational Comments:** Communications from on the beach is impeded by steep and high cliffs which can block signals.

