

**2-273-A Site Summary - San Gregorio Creek****2-273-A****County:** San Mateo **ACP Division/Segment:** SM - N - S010**NOAA Chart:** 18680 Point Sur to San Francisco Bay **Map Book:** AAA San Mateo C **Decimal Degrees:** 37.322561 -122.402671**Site Description:**

This site is San Gregorio Creek, the lagoon and marsh landward of the beach which extends some distance upstream from the Hwy 1 bridge. Both sides of this site are on State Park Property; there is a kiosk and parking lot on the beach side. The area is within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The creek flows to the sea most of the year, but a sandbar may form in low-flow years providing a natural barrier from offshore threats. Medium-grained sand beach and berm is active and gets reworked by waves. The lagoon under the Hwy 1 bridge is present year round.

**Resources at Risk:**

*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches  
 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes  
 1C Exposed rocky cliffs with boulder talus base

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Oct
Birds	common yellowthroat	FP, SSC	Year-round	Jun-Aug
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	coho salmon - south of Punta Gorda	FE, SE	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Plants	Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE, SE	Year-round	Jul-Oct
Plants	Choris' popcorn flower	SR	Year-round	Mar-jun

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) 688-6768
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 primary concern is preventing oil washing into San Gregorio Creek and the large marsh which extends landward from the beach and well upstream of the highway. Oil in this lagoon would be very destructive to the surrounding brackish marsh vegetation and the fish and wildlife residents of the marsh and lagoon. Also be aware that a small endangered sandpiper is sometimes found nesting and resting in the debris at the mouth of the lagoon. Please avoid trampling plants and treading oil into the ground. Location of creek mouth changes frequently. Responders must adapt strategy to the situation they find but should advise IC before proceeding to improvise. Contact State Parks Personnel for vehicle access to beaches to minimize response impacts.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

The surf occasionally washes people and equipment out to sea. Be mindful of tides, the rising tide can trap people and equipment on isolated, pocket beaches. The eroding cliff face is unstable, do not stand on or near the edge of the cliff, and when on the beach beware of falling rocks.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 2-273.1 Objective:** Exclude oil by diking the mouth of the creek when heavy oil impacts are expected.

**Strategy:** When heavy oiling is expected, the preferred option is to close off inlet with a sediment dike backed by collection trench (medium-grained sand). The dike would have to be about 500 feet long. Sediment may be in short supply, especially after storms. If outflow is high enough to washout the dike, a culvert or culverts must be installed in the dike.

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					

**Strategy: 2-273.2 Objective:** Exclusion booming at the mouth of San Gregorio Creek, when level of oiling does not merit diking disturbance or as back-up to diking (2-273.1).

**Strategy:** Exclude oil from moving upstream in the lagoon by deploying exclusion-deflection boom at the mouth near the beach. Divert oil washing into lagoon to catchment areas on south shore of lagoon and on the landward side of the high berm. Depending upon configuration of creek mouth this strategy may require 600 to 1500 feet of swamp boom. 3,000 feet of oil snare on a rope should be deployed where waves are expected to wash over into the lagoon.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		1500	feet	
Boom	Oil Snare (pom-pom)			3000	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	30 lb		10		
Vessel	Skiff			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

**Strategy: 2-273.3 Objective:** Contain/collect oil at seaward end of lagoon, when oil has been washed into lagoon - to keep oil from marshy areas east of Hwy 1 bridge.

**Strategy:** When oil is threatening to move upstream past the bridge, use collection booms anchored to north and/or south bridge pilings to divert oil to a collection and recovery area. 600 feet of swamp boom and 600 feet of sorbent may be adequate for this strategy. Use 50ft of Oil Snare (OS) and/or 100ft of sorbent boom to collect oil. If oil begins to accumulate in skimmable quantity (deploy 273.4 strategy) consult IC.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		600	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			700	feet	
Boom	oil			50		
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		8		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			4		

**Strategy: 2-273.4 Objective:** Oil Recovery by skimming

**Strategy:** Deploy skimmer if oil accumulates in skimmable quantities as a result of strategy .3. Use skimmer head and pump to storage on beach or truck on highway. Consult IC prior to initiating this strategy.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
skimmer	stationary floating			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			3		

### Logistics:

**Directions:** From Oakland take Hwy 880 south, turn west onto Hwy 92 to Half Moon Bay. At Half Moon Bay turn south onto Hwy 1, and continue 10 miles south to San Gregorio Beach parking lot.

**Land Access:** Foot access only around lagoon. 4WD vehicles may be able to travel on beach. Contact State Park Personnel to access w/ vehicles and/or heavy equipment.

**On-Water Limitations:** For skiffs in the lagoon, small skiffs can be carried down from parking area. Nearest boat facilities are in Half Moon Bay.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** The San Gregorio State Park parking lot is suitable for a small staging area or field post. A highway 1 pull-out on a hill to the south provides better communications, and the Half Moon Bay airport is suitable for a large staging area. San Mateo County OES can identify an appropriate command post.

**Communications Problems:** Cell reception varies, best signal up near Hwy 1.