

2-307-A Site Summary - Crown Beach/Alameda Eelgrass Beds**2-307-A****County:** Alameda **ACP Division/Segment:** AL - D - S007**NOAA Chart:** 18649/18650 Entrance to SF Bay **Map Book:****Decimal Degrees:** 37.760659 -122.273012**Site Description:**

Robert W. Crown Memorial Beach is a man-made beach managed under East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) using imported dredging materials from Suisun Bay Shoal. The sandy beach is approx two linear miles and includes Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary at the southeastly end. Elsie Roemer is also managed under EBRPD. Endangered snowy plovers have recolonized on the beach (location varies). EBRPD closes off the area where snowy plovers congregate each spring-summer season.

The Alameda Eelgrass Beds offshore Crown Beach extends from near the entrance to Ballena Bay to the southerly extension of Park Street in Alameda. Each individual eelgrass bed can expand or contract seasonally. The densest portion of the bed is near Ballena Bay and becomes more sparse along a sand bar running to the east about 150 yards off shore. The beds are in 8 to 10 feet of water and would not necessarily be exposed to oil on all low low tides. Eelgrass may become exposed at tides less than 0.00ft. (MLLW: Mean Lower Low Water). Pacific Herring spawn in the eelgrass (Nov-Feb).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

9B Vegetated low banks

9A Sheltered tidal flats

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	California Ridgeway's rail	FE, SE	Year-round	Feb-Aug
Birds	California black rail	FP, ST	Year-round	Mar-Aug
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr-Sep	Apr-Jun
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Oct
Birds	Alameda song sparrow	SSC	Year-round	Mar
Fish	Pacific herring		Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	Nov-May
Plants	eelgrass		Year-round	

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
E	/Dispatch, 24-hr	Alameda County Sheriffs Department	(510) 667-7721
E	/Crown Beach Park Supervisor	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 862-7984
E	/Dispatch, 24-hr	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
E	/Shoreline Parks Manager	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1832
O	/Office	Point Blue Conservation Science	(707) 781-2555
T	/Agency Representative	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	(707) 644-2812
T	/Agency Representative	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3232

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

Additional Site Summary Comments:

Several sensitive plant species occur in the area. Vessels avoid transiting thru eelgrass beds offshore.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

The concern is that oil will readily stick to any eelgrass blades which come in contact with the oil. The oil is disruptive to the eelgrass and would be damaging to any herring eggs spawned during the herring spawning season November to April. The strategy is to deflect the oil past this area to currents leading to collection setup to the east in San Leandro Channel. In the event Elsie Romer Bird Sanctuary is affected, contact EBRPD for entry/clean-up operations.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Water is relatively shallow near shoreline.

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

Strategy: 2-307.1 Objective: Assess need for protective booming: Eelgrass is only vulnerable at very low tides when eelgrass tops are exposed to floating oil.

Strategy: Biological staff must assess this site to determine if eelgrass is at risk. Because this bed is fairly deep, eelgrass tops are rarely, if ever, exposed to floating oil, and then only at very low tides. Oil readily sticks to floating eelgrass tops, and once eelgrass gets fouled with oil, oil becomes a subsurface threat to fish and other organisms which thrive in this cover. Scientific staff must review tidal information to see if minus tides less than -0.5 ft may result in eelgrass exposure, and must conduct on-site evaluation as necessary. Any booming recommendations should be expedited through ICS to operations.

Table of Response Resources

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Strategy: 2-307.2 Objective: Deflect oil past eelgrass bed and toward collection / protection deployments of San Leandro Bay: 2-309.

Strategy: Cascade 3000 ft of 9X9+ Hboom from the mouth of Ballena Bay at a southeasterly angle to direct oil past the eelgrass beds and the southern side of Alameda Island toward the San Leandro channel.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		3000	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lbs		7		
Vessel	Boom Boat			2		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			6		
Staff	Staff to Tend			2		

Logistics:

Directions: The Eelgrass beds are approx 200 yards offshore from Alameda Marina mouth. Follow the signs to Alameda from I-880. Exit on Webster and continue to the terminus of Webster at Crown Beach: right (west) on Central to 4th Street to Ballena Bay and Ballena Isle Marina or left to 8th Street which becomes Shore Line Drive.

Land Access: Ready access to the nearby shoreline. EBRPD has ample parking at north end of Crown Beach. Restrooms and a small conference room at Crab Cove.

On-Water Limitations: Public launching at Encinal Boat Launch located at the end of Lincoln off of Central. Docking & fuel available at Ballena Isle Marina just to the west.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: The nearby Ballena Isle Marina is the most convenient boat facility to support this operation. Robert W. Crown Beach (EBRPD) may be useful for staging. The Alameda Ferry Slip on Bay Farm Island to the south is also a good site to stage boom and support equipment. Also, San Leandro Harbor, just south of the Oakland Airport is a small boat harbor accommodating 500 boats with a minimum of 15 guest slips. The channel leading into the harbor is dredged and has a controlling depth of 5-6 ft. It is marked by day beacons and two lights, and the northernmost light has a fog signal. There is a yacht club and the Harbor Master's office is on the southwest side.

Communications Problems: None



Imagery: NAIP 2010 (Summer) 4-Band