

2-506-A/C Site Summary - San Pablo Bay Eelgrass Beds**2-506-A/C****County:** Contra Costa **ACP Division/Segment:** CC - O - S001 CC - O - S010**NOAA Chart:** 18654 San Pablo Bay **Map Book:** AAA West Contra **Decimal Degrees:** 37.986642 -122.399007**Site Description:**

This massive eelgrass bed is located between Point San Pablo and Point Pinole, approx one mile northwest of the West Contra Costa Sanitary Land Fill. This eelgrass bed, like all eelgrass beds can vary in distribution, density, and height from year to year. Because the most of the bed is deeper than 10 feet (MLLW), it is rarely exposed to oiling, only when tides are so low that the eelgrass tops (fronds) are exposed on the surface. This is a shallow subtidal soft bottom area of the bay with potential submerged hazards. San Pablo Bay eelgrass bed occupies approximately 300 acres and is easily visible from the air during low tides.

Resources at Risk:

ESI and Habitat: 5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches
 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes
 6B Riprap

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
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	/Operations, 24-hr	Chevron Corporation, Long Wharf	(510) 242-4494
E	/Dispatch, 24-hr	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
E	/Point Pinole Park Supervisor	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 544-3062
S	/Dispatch, 24-hr	Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff	(925) 468-4421
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:

Avoid eelgrass beds with outboard engines/props.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Avoid vessel transit through eelgrass beds with propellers.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Shallow water, submerged obstructions likely based on tidal height. Wind chop to three feet possible.

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

Strategy: 2-506.1 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 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

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Staff	OSPR Staff ES			1		

Strategy: 2-506.2 Objective: Deflect oil from coming into contact with the eelgrass during low tides.

Strategy: Deflection booming: if a large amount of heavy oil is expected to enter the eelgrass bed within 2 hours of low tide, 2000 feet of 9X9+ Hboom should be deployed in an attempt to deflect the oil around the eelgrass. The location and manner in which the boom is deployed will depend upon the wind and current at the time of the deployment. The deflection is unlikely to be effective if any portion of the boom is perpendicular to the wind or current. Oil can pass directly over the eelgrass at high tide without sticking to the eelgrass fronds.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		2000	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		8		
Vessel	Boom Boat			1		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

Logistics:

Directions: Access by water only. Launch ramp at Richmond Marina or Chevron Refinery in Richmond.

Land Access: Boat access only.

On-Water Limitations: Shallow draft vessels only. Richmond Marina, Pt San Pablo Yacht Harbor, and Chevron Refinery.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Richmond Harbor and Chevron Refinery.

Communications Problems: Good cell reception throughout area.

