

County: San Joaquin **ACP Division/Segment:****NOAA Chart:** 18661 Sacramento & San Joaquin River **Map Book:** SF Bay and Delta **Decimal Degrees:** 38.025118 -121.50812**Site Description:**

Columbia Cut extends 1.5 miles connecting the San Joaquin Channel (Head Reach) with Middle River. It is bordered by Medford Island to the north and McDonald Island to the south. Columbia Cut has a Berm Island dividing most of its length to the Middle River confluence and a large channel island at its confluence with the San Joaquin. These islands have high ecological value as freshwater marsh and riparian habitat. Levees are rip-rapped with emergent vegetation pockets. Currents can be strong here. Draft is good throughout its length.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 6B Riprap

9B Vegetated low banks

10B Freshwater marshes

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Swainson's hawk	FP, ST		Mar-Sep
Birds	California black rail	FP, ST		Mar-Aug
Fish	longfin smelt	ST		Nov-May
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT		Nov-Apr
Fish	delta smelt	FT, SE		Mar-May
Plants	Mason's lilaeopsis	SR		Apr-Nov
Reptiles	giant garter snake	FT, ST		Jul-Oct

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	/Manager	Central Delta Water Agency	(209) 969-7755
E	/Engineer	Lower Jones Tract Reclamation District	(209) 969-7755
E	/Office	Mandeville Island Reclamation District	(209) 946-0268
E	/Dispatch, 24-hr	Medford Island Reclamation District	(209) 465-5883
O	/Dispatch, 24-hr	California Department of Water Resources	(916) 574-2714
S	/Dispatch, 24-hr	San Joaquin Office of Emergency Services	(209) 953-6200
T	/Environmental Program Manager	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay Delta Region	(707) 576-2837
T	/Restoration Ecologist	US Department of Agriculture	(530) 304-2304
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	USFWS, SF Bay-Delta Office	(916) 799-0588

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 here.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Oil issues here are oiling of marshy vegetation and penetration into riprap. This is also a significant route for spill spread. There are many important ecological resources in this reach of river and upstream sites where oil may be carried on tides and currents. The intent is to limit the free movement of oil into and through this site by exclusion and collection booming. Oil issues within the site are oiling of marsh vegetation and penetration into riprap. Minimize disturbance of vegetation and creatures. Do not anchor boom to trees on the levee.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Aerial traffic beware of power wires. Slips, trips and falls. Deep water except at margins. Beware of Posion Oak.

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

Strategy: 2-952.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering or leaving Columbia Cut at the mouth (at San Joaquin R).

Strategy: Set exclusion-diversion booms across each mouth at Head Reach. Anchor one end near the Medford levee and anchor other end along Head Reach shore of unnamed tule island. Do the same on south side to close channel on McDonald Island side. Leave a trailing boom length to maintain seal during tidal vacillations. Back with sorbent boom as necessary. Set protective sorbents between hard boom if oil threatens from Head Reach. Wind wash and strong currents can be a problem, requiring back-up strategy (see .3).

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp	6x6 inch		1000	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			2000	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		4		
Vessel	Boom Boat			1		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

Strategy: 2-952.2 Objective: Exclusion booming at junction with Middle River.

Strategy: Set 900' of 9x9+ harbor boom across mouth of Columbia Cut. Anchor one end near McDonald levee and the other near the Medford levee. Back with sorbent.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		900	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			900	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	22 lb		5		
Vessel	Boom Boat			1		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

Strategy: 2-952.3 Objective: Exclusion/Collection backup strategy for Head Reach end: exclude and divert for collection, under prevailing wind and current pattern.

Strategy: Set 1500' 9x9+ harbor boom at a diagonal across Columbia Cut just south of unnamed tule island. Angle to promote collection at appropriate shore under prevailing wind conditions.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor	9x9 inch		1500	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	25 lb		5		
Vessel	Boom Boat			1		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			5		

Logistics:

Directions: Key access to site is by boat, from Stockton Deep Water Channel at R12 or R16 through Head Reach. Vehicle access is very restricted: private levee roads via convoluted routes: Hwy 4 to Inland Dr to McDonald Rd to private bridge or ferry to McDonald Island or I-5 to 8-mile road to private ferry to Medford Island.

Land Access: Access from levees when dry , avoid when saturated.

On-Water Limitations: Deep draft, except near shore. Nearest boat launch and marine service is 8-mile road. Additional marine facilities are at Bethel Island or at the mouth of the Mokelumne.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Good deployment sites and facilities are at marinas above: rental boats, fuel, restaurants, water, and some camping and lodging. Consider the 8-mile road area as an area deployment site. Lower Jones Tract levees are another deployment area.

Communications Problems: Cell reception varies.

