

County: **Santa Clara**  
 USGS Quad: **Mountain View**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 7 28

122 06

NOAA Chart: **18654 San Francisco Bay Southern Part**

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Palo Alto Marsh lies on the southwest shore of South San Francisco Bay, immediately south of the Dumbarton Bridge to Mayfield Slough. Site is included in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Cordgrass saltmarsh and mudflats are bisected by several channels, including San Francisquito Creek. The site is part of the City of Palo Alto's Baylands Nature Preserve. The site is fronted by extensive very shallow mudflats.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

"A" priority all year. Endangered species are present all year.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

This is a saltmarsh habitat primarily composed of cordgrass and pickleweed and supports a rich variety of species including numerous T & E species.

Sensitive bird species found here include: Endangered - California clapper rail California least tern; Threatened - western snowy plover; California Species of Special Concern: saltmarsh common yellowthroat, Alameda song sparrow. Also, California brown pelican, American peregrine falcon, and significant numbers of a wide variety of birds nest and winter here: shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, and waterbirds.

Sensitive mammals species found here include: Endangered - salt marsh harvest mouse; California species of special concern - saltmarsh wandering shrew.

San Francisquito Creek supports the largest and one of the few remaining steelhead runs in San Francisco Bay.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

There are probably historic and cultural sites present. Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison -(916) 653-9125), and the Northwest Information Center, (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College ((707) 332-1117)) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

**KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)**

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T	Joy Albertson	US Fish & Wildlife Service, SF Bay (NWR)	(510) 792-0222
E/T	Richard Bicknell Supervising Ranger	Baylands Nature Preserve	(650) 617-3156
E	Pat Metelli	Cargill Salt	(510) 790-8610

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

## 2-370 -A Site Strategy - Palo Alto Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location

Santa Clara

NOAA CHART

18654 San Francisco Bay Southern Part

## 2-370 -A

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### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update :

Primary concern is to exclude oil from entering the interior marsh via channels. Second concern is oiling of this low energy marsh front. Also of concern is damage to marsh from response activities: trampling marsh vegetation, disturbing sensitive species, and trampling of oil into sediments.

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Aircraft beware of airport traffic and overhead power lines nearby; vessels beware of shallow water; pilings and debris on mudflat.

### SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-370.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering the entrances to Palo Alto Marsh and San Francisquito Creek, if time to impact does not permit its deployment or if tidal barrier boom (strategy 2-370.2) should fail.

ALTERNATIVES: It is critical that channel entrances leading into Palo Alto Marsh (Baylands Nature Preserve) and San Francisquito Creek be blocked, and also, the small tidal inlets to the marsh north of Cooley Landing. Deploy 100' lengths of appropriate curtain boom and block channel mouths with curtain boom, swamp boom, sorbent boom, or combination thereof.

Strategy 2-370.2 Objective: Protective booming of marsh front to keep oil from impacting marsh and mudflats.

Deploy 9,000 - 10,000 ft of exclusionary 9X9+ Hboom across the mudflat from Cooley Landing around Sand Point to Mayfield Slough.

### Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-370.1	500	500		500		1	3			2	2
2-370.2	10000	1000		1000	60 50-60 / 22#+/danforths	6	3		shallow draft bombast	8	

### LOGISTICS

**DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)**

Vehicle access is available at two points: Cooley Landing - from Hwy 84 or Hwy 101, exit on University Ave and then bayward on Bay Rd; Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve - from Hwy 101 exit on Embarcadero Rd and proceed bayward to terminus. Palo Alto Marsh lies on the southwest shore of South San Francisco Bay, immediately south of the Dumbarton Bridge to Mayfield Slough. Site is included in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

**LAND ACCESS:** All weather, all vehicle road to site

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Very shallow

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Launch at Mayfield Slough and at Cooley Landing. Larger craft at Redwood City Marina or Harbor.

### FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

Staging at Palo Alto Boat Works and Redwood City Marina or Harbor. Also, at public access at mouth of Mayfield Slough.

### COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

### ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

