

County: **Marin**
 USGS Quad: **San Quentin**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 8 56

122 30

NOAA Chart: **18649 Entrance to SF Bay**

Last Page Update : 12/15/2005

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site includes the marshes and mudflats from south of Corte Madera Channel to Paradise Cay Yacht Harbor and the marshes up Corte Madera Creek. This site also includes Corte Madera Marsh State Marine Park. The site is a very shallow embayment with a prograding shoreline and an emergent marsh at the back bay. Historically the high marsh had been diked. Those diked marshes are now open to tidal exchange, and the north half is the Corte Madera State Ecological Reserve owned and controlled by the Calif Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Region III. The mudflats in front are very shallow, and there is rarely any significant wave action here. Special Status Species are found here and the site is heavily used by bird species and migratory bird species during the winter.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Marshes have A-priority at all times. There are Special Status Species present year-round. There is heavy migratory bird use in winter and harbor seal pupping in late spring.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

There are a number of habitats at risk. These include the prograding shore with emergent marsh, the partially diked pickleweed saltmarsh, the shallow mudflats, the back marshes in the upstream portions of Corte Madera Creek, and some patches of eelgrass near Paradise Cay Harbor.

The marsh and mudflats are heavily used by migratory shorebirds and waterfowl during fall and winter. The marshes are year-round habitat for marsh birds including the endangered California clapper rail.

The endangered saltmarsh harvest mouse is also found here. Harbor seals pup here in late spring and haul out on higher tides.

The rich infauna found here are forage species for both birds and shorebirds.

There are also rare plants thriving here, including Marin knotweed and northcoast soft bird's beak.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

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
E/T	Region 3 DFW Office	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	(707) 944-5500
E	Marin County OES (Office Main	Marin, County of, Sheriff/Office of Emergency Serv	(415) 473-6584
O	Barbra Salzman	Audubon Society, Marin County Chapter	(415) 924-6057

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-425 -A Site Strategy - Corte Madera Marshes

County and Thomas Guide Location

Marin

NOAA CHART

18649 Entrance to SF Bay

2-425 -A

Latitude N

3 8 56

Longitude W

122 30

Last Page Update : 3/10/2011

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The marshes are very sensitive, have sensitive plants and animals, and are almost impossible to clean or rehabilitate. There are additional marshes up Corte Madera Creek. The strategy is to exclude oil from being carried into the back marsh by closing small tidal inlets and excluding oil from the entire site by cascading boom across the entire marshfront landward of the currents and eddies.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

There are shallows and obstructions throughout the bay. Local knowledge is important for navigation here.

SITE STRATEGIES

Currents are aggressive across the mouth of the cove but not just back from the mouth. West and southerly margins of the bay are exceedingly shallow and in many areas boat traffic is limited to very shallow draft vessels and only at higher tides.

Strategy 2-425.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering tidal inlets.

At the marshfront, deploy boom across the eight tidal sloughs at the margin of the emergent marsh using short lengths of swamp boom (100' 4X4+ Hboom) backed with sorbent and staked inplace.

Strategy 2-425.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering Creek mouth.

Deploy 800 ft of 9X9+ Hboom at a diagonal across the mouth of Corte Madera, from the north shoreline next to Ferry terminal, across Corda Madera Creek using green channel marker G "17" as midpoint, to south shore. Ensure exclusion of large inlet on south shore and sufficient boom to provide shore seals during tide changes.

Strategy 2-425.3 Objective: Exclude oil from entering cove mouth, creek, and tidal creeks

To exclude oil from cove, boom across cove (6000' 9X9+ and 1500' 4X4+ in 1000' or smaller lengths) from San Quentin Prison shoreline (make arrangements through Marin Co OES) directly south to a dock at a school north of Paradise Cay. Boom may be continuous or keep cascades close together to maintain exclusion (leave trailing ends and tie together or close gaps with boom and sorbent). In the Corte Madera Channel, cascade boom to leave a passage though the boom for boat traffic (ferry traffic).

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 No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-425.1		900		600	16 16/22+/danforths & chain + stakes	1	1	0	Bboats very shallow & obstructions	6	2
2-425.2	800		0	800	5 2 22#+ & 3/12#+ anchors	1	1	0	Bboats very shallow & obstructions	4	2
2-425.3	6000	1500	0	0	16 16/22+/danforths & chain + stakes	6	1	0	Bboats very shallow & obstructions	20	2

LOGISTICS

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

By water the site is just south of Pt. San Quentin and may be accessible via Corte Madera Channel. Nearest land access is from Paradise Drive and Antilles Way (to Paradise Cay Harbor) on the south side, and on Pt. San Quentin Francisco Road (first exit off I-580 west of San Rafael Bridge). The site includes the marshes and mudflats from south of Corte Madera Channel to Paradise Cay Yacht Harbor and the marshes up Corte Madera Creek. This site also includes Corte Madera Marsh State Marine Park.

LAND ACCESS: Roadways are paved

WATER LOGISTICS: exceedingly shallow - only very shallow draft boats

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearest launching is NOAA ramp on Tiburon Peninsula. Moorage and fuel at Paradise Cay. Also launching at Loch Lomond Marina, San Rafael.

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

Best staging at NOAA-NFMS Marin center or Paradise Cay Harbor. Also possible staging at Paradise Cove Park. Facilities are available in Corte Madera, Sausalito, and San Rafael. Zone staging at Richmond.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

