

County: **Contra Costa**
 USGS Quad: **Richmond**

Thomas Guide Location

AAA Richmond

NOAA Chart: **Entrance to San Francisco Bay 18649**

Latitude N

37 54.5

Longitude W

122 20

Last Page Update : 7/1/2005

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site lies near the southern boundary of the city of Richmond and is bounded on the north by the residential / business area east of the Richmond Marina, on the east by Highway 580, on the south by Central Ave and on the west by Brook's Island (no trespassing is permitted on Brook's Island). Hoffman Marsh and most of the land bayward is owned by East Bay Regional Parks District (Pt. Isabel Regional Park). This shallow bay surrounded by marshes is biologically rich and very vulnerable to oiling. Most of the marshes are tidally influenced and support pickleweed and other salt marsh vegetation. Hoffman Marsh is separated from the bay by an old railroad grade and is connected to the Bay by a narrow channel, lined with rip rap, which opens to the Bay at Point Isabel. The Inner Harbor marshes are protected by approximately two miles of rip rap, with two openings to the Richmond Inner Harbor, each about a 300 yards across. There are extensive intertidal mudflats and shallows both in front and behind the riprap.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

"A" Priority all year

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

There are three major habitats at risk: the Hoffman and other surrounding marshes, the protected surface waters are resting habitat for birds, and extensive mudflats and shallow waters are important foraging areas for shorebirds, migratory waterfowl, and fish.

The endangered California clapper rail and migratory waterfowl are at risk here. Large concentrations of migratory waterfowl and waterbirds use the protected waters of Richmond Inner Harbor during the wintering period.

The endangered Saltmarsh harvest mouse inhabits saltmarshes such as Hoffman.

There is an eelgrass bed at the northerly mouth of the marsh just south of the breakwater.

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		CA State Parks, Northern Comms Center (Dispatch)	(916) 358-0333
E/T	Brook's Island Shoreline Parks Manager	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 544-3108
E	EBRPD Dispatch EBRP	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
E/T	Shoreline Park Supervisor	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 544-3172

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-454 -A Site Strategy - Richmond Inner Harbor/Hoffman Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location

AAA Richmond Contra Costa

NOAA CHART

Entrance to San Francisco Bay 18649

2-454 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

37 54.5 122 20

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Should oil enter the marsh, injury and death of vegetation and wildlife can be expected. Keep oil from entering the channels and embayments. Endangered species live in the marshes year-round and may be injured by foot traffic. Oil is also a threat to the many birds which use the open water. Avoid tramping oil into marsh and sediments. Most of the property belongs to East Bay Regional Park District.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Navigational hazards include shallow water, a submerged pipeline and debris. The bottom substrate type is soft mud.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-454.1 Objective: Exclude oil from marsh entry channels

Exclude oil from two major entrances to the marshes and embayments:

a) the southerly entrance is at Pt Isabel Regional Park (Central Avenue off of I-580) and includes two channel openings: first, a long narrow channel which leads about 2000 feet back to a marsh behind the railroad grade (Hoffman Marsh) and second, an opening to a large shallow embayment at the bayfront between the riprap shoreline (north of the channel to Hoffman Marsh) to a riprap breakwater about 100 yds offshore; (Use 1000 feet of 9X9+ exclusion boom from Pt Isabel to the breakwater tip in a shallow chevron formation, and back the harbor boom with 1100 ft of small boom; also, place a small chevron of boom backed with sorbent at the mouth of the long channel.)

b) the northerly entrance is a wide gap in an east-west riprap levee at the north end of the embayment; (Exclude oil with 1100 ft 9X9+ Hboom in a long chevron formation.)

c) there may also be small breeches in the riprap levees which are not shown on maps or strategy diagrams. Deploy boom in chevron formation at such openings (not shown on diagram).

Strategy 2-454.2 Objective: protection for splash-over or porous breakwater

Breakwater can be topped by waves at high tide. Strategy may require boom on either side to prevent seepage through or splash over the breakwater when large concentrations of oil are present.

Strategy 2-454.3 Objective: Protection booming

If it appears that the initial response strategy will be unsuccessful, it is recommended that 5000 feet of 9X9+ Hboom be deployed along the outer edge of the mud flat outside the breakwater in the northeast corner of Richmond Inner Harbor. An example of this strategy is described in "Potential Oil-Spill Protection Strategies for San Francisco Bay, California" (Hayes and Montello, 1994)

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvpe and dear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-454.1	2500	1100		200	8	6-8 25# danforth, 15' 1/2 chain	2	2	1		Shallow draft boom boat.	8	
2-454.2	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0			
2-454.3	5000	0	0	0	11	22# danforth, 15' 1/2 chain	3	1	0	0	very shallow water boom boats	12	

LOGISTICS

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

From Coast Guard Island, take Highway 80 north and exit at Central Avenue. Turn left and proceed to the rear of the Costco Warehouse. If necessary, small boats can be launched over the beach from Point Isabel, but the nearest marina with a launch ramp is Richmond just to the north. Vehicles may also access the area through Point Isabel Regional Park Shoreline. Turn right on Rydin from Central Ave. Contact East Bay Regional Park Dist. For access through locked gate. This site lies near the southern boundary of the city of Richmond and is bounded on the north by the residential / business area east of the Richmond Marina, on the east by Highway 580, on the south by Central Ave and on the west by Brook's Island (no trespassing is permitted on Brook's Island). Hoffman Marsh and most of the land bayward is owned by East Bay Regional Parks District (Pt. Isabel Regional Park).

LAND ACCESS: Good vehicle access

WATER LOGISTICS: very shallow water

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Richmond Marina, and Berkeley Marina

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

Good staging and field post space at Richmond harbor and marina and MSRC Docks. Limited staging and field post opportunities at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: none known

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

