

County: **Contra Costa**
USGS Quad: **San Quentin**

Thomas Guide Location

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 7 58

122 24

NOAA Chart: **18649 Entrance SF 18654 San Pablo Bay**

Last Page Update : 1/1/2000

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The site includes Castro Creek and the surrounding marshes from the Richmond Parkway and extends bayward (westerly) including Castro Cove from the tip of the channel jetty to the Richmond Rod and Gun Club to the point on the opposite shore and the partially diked basin on the north. Marshes along northern shoreline is adjacent to Richmond Chevron Facility. The creek, shallow embayment and the partially diked pond on the north have extensive marshes, eelgrass beds, and mudflats. Castro Creek, which joins this bay on its southeast side, has well developed marshes along its length for several miles and its flood plain and the easterly margin of the cove is pickleweed marsh. The site is heavily used by marsh birds, wading birds and diving ducks for foraging and resting. The easterly end is very shallow.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The marshes are an A-priority all year.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

This area has very prime and sensitive habitats. Tidal marshes are habitat for the marsh life including some endangered species; there are both cordgrass emergent marshes and higher pickleweed marshes on the easterly portions of the site. The shallow mud flats have a rich fauna and are important feeding areas to migratory waterfowl, resident wading birds, waterbirds and fish life. The relatively protected waters here make the bay a favored resting area for migratory birds and gulls.

There is heavy bird use of this area. The marshes are habitat for the endangered California clapper rail and other marsh birds. During the winter and spring, migratory birds rest and feed on the cove and tidal flats. The diked pond is a favorite place for ducks and for gulls which forage at the nearby dump.

The endangered salt marsh harvest mouse also inhabits the high pickleweed marshes.

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	Pt. Pinole Park Sup.	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 237-6896
E	Chevron Long Wharf	Chevron Corp., Operations Control Room (24hrs.)	(510) 242-4494
E	EBRPD Dispatch EBRP	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-501 -A Site Strategy - Castro Creek and Marshes

County and Thomas Guide Location

Contra Costa

NOAA CHART

18649 Entrance SF 18654 San Pablo Bay

2-501 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

3 7 58

122 24

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 1/15/2007

The concern is the vulnerability of the marshes, eelgrass beds, mudflats, diked ponds and the birds and animals which are concentrated here. The south and east sides of Castro Cove and Castro Creek have extensive marshes. This makes it very important that oil be excluded from the cove. If necessary, deploy boom to drive oil to the shore: the southwest riprap shore has the best cleanup and recovery possibilities.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

This area has many shallow and under water obstructions.

SITE STRATEGIES

This large area may require multiple exclusion deployments. Waters are extremely shallow in south and east portions.

Strategy 2-501.1 Objective: Exclusion booming of mouth of Castro Cove, adjacent partially diked pond, and mouth of Castro Creek

a) Close the mouth of Castro Cove with 3800' 9X9+ Hboom from the jetty on the south to the dike on the north. This deployment may need to be angled to direct oil toward a shoreline collection (preferably to the south). A backup layer (2-501.2) may be needed as a result of wind chop. Report back to IC on need for land collection at the jetty or open water skimmer between boom layers.

b) Close the westerly opening of the partially diked pond with a chevron deployment with 200' 9X9+ Hboom.

Strategy 2-501.2 Objective: Back up exclusion at mouth of Castro Cove

a) Backup initial closure of the mouth of Castro Cove (2-501.1) with a second layer (3800') of swamp boom set a few yards behind the harbor boom. It will capture oil cresting the first boom as a result of wind chop. This deployment may need to be angled to direct oil toward a shoreline collection (preferably to the south). Report back to IC on need for land collection at the jetty or open water skimmer between boom layers.

b) Close the inner (southerly) opening of the partially diked pond with a chevron deployment (200' 9X9+ Hboom).

Strategy 2-501.3 Objective: Exclusion at Creek mouth for inland spill or backup backup

Close the mouth of Castro Creek with 2000' swamp boom. This requires a boom boat which can tolerate stranding and should be undertaken with care at higher tides.

Strategy 2-501.4 Objective: Exclusion booming of entries to nearby harbors and channels

a) Deploy 1600' of swamp boom across the mouth of the Chevron Rod & Gun Club channel to the west at a diagonal to the jetty and down the jetty to tie into the exclusion boom.

b) Deploy 200' of exclusion boom across the mouth of the marina. Very shallow, strandable boom boat with protected props will be necessary.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-501.1	4000				10 22+/-Danforth + 20' chain	4	0	0		12	
2-501.2	200	3800	0	0	10 22+/-Danforth + 20' chain	4	2	0	0 Shallow water	14	4
2-501.3	0	2000	0	0	4 22+/-Danforth + 20' chain	1	2	0	0	8	2
2-501.4	0	1800			4 4/22+/-danforth + chain	1	1		very shallow strandable Bboat	3	

LOGISTICS

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

There is a poor land access from the Chevron Rod and Gun Club which requires pre-arrangements with Chevron. ""By boat, proceed north from the San Rafael Bridge and past Pt San Pablo, continue east in the channel past the Brothers Marina toward the Chevron Refinery. The site includes Castro Creek and the surrounding marshes from the Richmond Parkway and extends bayward (westerly) including Castro Cove from the tip of the channel jetty to the Richmond Rod and Gun Club to the point on the opposite shore and the partially diked basin on the north. Marshes along northern shoreline is adjacent to Richmond Chevron Facility.

LAND ACCESS: very limited (foot), except good on SW side.

WATER LOGISTICS: very shallow and with obstructions.

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Boat launch at Brothers Marina, Richmond Harbor, possibly at Chevron. Gas at Brothers & Richmond. Full services at Richmond.

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

Boom may be staged locally at Richmond Rod & Gun and at Brothers Marina. Both may provide field posts and Brothers has food and water. Full services and ample staging are available in Richmond inner harbor. Boom resupply at Brothers or Richmond.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

