

County: **San Joaquin**
 USGS Quad: **Woodward Island**

Thomas Guide Location

SF Bay and Delt

NOAA Chart: **18661 Sacramento & San Joaquin River**

Latitude N

37 59.7

Longitude W

121 27

Last Page Update : 7/1/1996

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Five miles of channel bordering south and east side of McDonald Island, from the Stockton Channel (R24) to Latham Slough (Mildred Island). Whiskey Slough forks off to southeast marking Turner from Empire Cuts. This is a deep water slough with ripped levees with pockets of emergent marsh. Berm and channel islands throughout its length are marshy and shrub scrub and have high ecological value. Currents can be strong in this slough.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Marsh and riparian vegetation zones are of "A" concern year-round. Special Status Species: in Nov-Dec Delta smelt occur in modest numbers. Winter-run chinook are of moderate concern Oct 15 - May 31. One rare plant.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Channel and berm islands have rich marsh/riparian communities. Levee community has been minimized by riprap. Aquatic community is typical of strong-current delta waters.

Species present are those typical of riverine habitats: waterbirds, marsh and shorebirds.

Islands are used by aquatic and semi-aquatic wildlife.

This area has modest numbers of Delta smelt (FT/SE) at some times. Wandering winter-run chinook (FE/SE) smolts are of moderate concern mid Oct-May. Juvenile and adult striped bass and warm water fish are typical.

Well developed emergent and rooted vegetation around the channel islands.

The rare plant California hibiscus has been found several places in this site.

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	Dominick Gulli	Terminus Tract Reclamation District	(209) 478-6525
	John Henderson F/W Biologist	US Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Contam	(916) 414-6595
	Eric Larson	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bay/Delta	(707) 944-5528
E	Chris Neudeck	Mandeville Island Reclamation District	(209) 946-0268
OEL	Dab Nomellini President	Central Delta Water Agency	(209) 465-5883

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-963 -A Site Strategy - Turner-Empire Cut

County and Thomas Guide Location

SF Bay and Delta San Joaquin

NOAA CHART

18661 Sacramento & San Joaquin River

2-963 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The concern is two-fold: first, that oil will be transported through this site to other parts of the delta; and second, that marshy islands and margins will become oiled. These marshy areas are sensitive and habitat to many sensitive species. There is always the concern of impacts from response and cleanup: trampling vegetation, disturbing wildlife, and tracking oil into marshes and mud.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Aerial high wire hazards. Underwater cables and pipelines. Slips, trips and falls on riprap. Poison oak on levees.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 2-963.1 Objective: Exclude/contain oil At San Joaquin River (at Acker Island): Stop oil from entering or leaving slough mouth.

For oil threats on the San Joaquin, this deployment should be done at the same time as strategy 2-040 San Joaquin River - Hog Island Cut Complex.

a) Set boom across slough mouth (400' Hboom). Anchor one boom end upstream near riprap bank of Roberts Isl. At R24. Anchor downstream boom end at the marshy beach of Acker Island, with substantial overlapping of Acker tip. Back with sorbent, leaving a trailing boom length to maintain seal during tidal vacillations.

b) Anchor exclusion boom across Turner Cut mouth from riprap levee of McDonald Isl easterly to Lost Isl Resort (200' Hboom.) Back with sorbent boom. Leave trailing boom ends to keep a tidal seal.

Strategy 2-963.2 Objective: Exclusion/contain at south end - junction with Latham Slough at Mildred Island. Stop oil from entering or leaving slough mouth.

Deploy 1220 ft of 18" boom across west end of Empire Cut on a diagonal favorable to divert oil to south shore. Anchor boom near riprap levees on each side leaving trailing ends to maintain tidal seal. Back with second layer of boom or sorbent boom. Strong current here. Collect oil at south bank (Lower Jones Tract) if oil is concentrated sufficiently for collection. Use 50ft of oil snare (OS), 100ft of sorbent boom to collect oil that may accumulate. If oil accumulates in skimmable quantities contact IC.

Strategy 2-963.3 Objective: Oil Recovery by Shoreside skimming

Deploy skimmer if oil accumulates in skimmable quantities. Consult IC prior to the initiation of this strategy.

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
2-963.1	600			600	4 4/25 lb Danforth					2	
2-963.2	1200		50 OS	1320	5 5/25lb danforth + chain + line					4	
2-963.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 SSS	0		

LOGISTICS

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

Levee roads border this site on south and east are on Roberts Island and Lower Jones Tract and are accessible from Hwy 4 (Lower Jones road and McDonald Rd). North/west levee roads of McDonald Isl. are private. By water, site begins at Ship Channel light R24. Five miles of channel bordering south and east side of McDonald Island, from the Stockton Channel (R24) to Latham Slough (Mildred Island). Whiskey Slough forks off to southeast marking Turner from Empire Cuts.

LAND ACCESS: Southeast levee roads paved

WATER LOGISTICS: deep water except around isles

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Nearby marinas include: Tiki Lagun Resort, Turner Cut Resort, Whiskey Slough Resort, and others.

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

Roberts Island at Turner Cut/Stockton Channel junction is good major deployment site for this area. Adjacent levees and marinas are good for boom deployment and other response.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

