

County: Santa Cruz **ACP Division/Segment:** SZ - E - S006**NOAA Chart:** 18685**Map Book:** 1035**Decimal Degrees:** 36.84995 -121.80966**Site Description:**

The Pajaro River is the demarcation between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Watsonville Slough converges on the north bank of the river mouth. During low outflow, a natural sand berm forms at the river mouth. Brackish lagoon, salt marsh, tidal flats, and eelgrass beds are within the river mouth and extend upstream. Watsonville Slough also supports extensive salt marsh habitat. The configurations of river, lagoon, beach face, and river outlet are all highly variable. Pajaro River Mouth Natural Preserve includes the river mouth and beach area, which is managed California State Parks. Site is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Sensitive plant species and Northern legless lizard are present within the vegetated dunes. Over 1,000 brown pelicans have been observed roosting near the river mouth. Nesting colony of bank swallows along the river mouth banks.

Resources at Risk:**ESI and Habitat:** 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

7 Exposed tidal flat

9A Sheltered tidal flats

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	bank swallow	ST	Mar-Jul	Mar-Jul
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	Mar-Sep
Fish	Monterey hitch	SSC	Year-round	May-Aug
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	Nov-Apr
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Plants	Monterey spineflower	FT	Year-round	
Reptiles	Northern legless lizard	SSC	Year-round	Sep-Nov

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
E	/Office	Pajaro Dunes Association	(831) 761-7744
T	/Dispatch, 24-hr	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(916) 358-1300
T	/Emergency Responder, 24-hr	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 236-6797
T	/Agency Representative	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(707) 575-6050
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	US Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

Additional Site Summary Comments:

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Western snowy plovers nest on beach Mar-Sep. Sensitive plant species and Northern legless lizard are present within the vegetated dunes.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Northern river mouth access via attended gate at private residential community. Southern river mouth access via gated farm road.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II****Strategy: 3-290.1 Objective:** Build Berm

Strategy: Exclude oil from river by building a sediment berm with native sand using heavy equipment. May need to install PVC pipe below berm to allow for water outflow. Stake two layers of swamp boom upstream of the berm. Line swamp boom with sorbent boom.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Bulldozer or Loader				1		
PVC Pipe		6 inch		500	feet	
Boom	Swamp			1400	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			1400	feet	
Anchor	Danforth			6		
Stakes				12		
Staff				10		

Strategy: 3-290.2 Objective: Deploy Containment Boom

Strategy: Exclude oil from river upstream of the Watsonville Slough convergence. Anchor two rows of swamp boom diagonally inside the lagoon, creating a collection point on the north bank along the riprap. Line upstream side of swamp boom with sorbent boom.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp			1400	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			1400	feet	
Anchor	Danforth			6		
Stakes				12		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff				5		

Logistics:

Directions: Northern river mouth access parking: Pajaro Dunes private community (73 Pelican Point, Watsonville, CA 95076); 25 parking spaces. Southern river mouth access: Zmudowski State Beach, gated road (201 Giberson Rd, Moss Landing, CA 95039); 19 parking spaces. Northern river channel access from Rio Boca Rd. (36.853615°, -121.808480°). Southern river channel access from Jensen Rd. (36.853518°, -121.805064°). Additional access to the upcoast end of the inlet is available through the Pajaro Dunes Colony [2661 Beach Road, Watsonville]; permission to access Colony residential roads may be arranged by calling Pajaro Dunes front office phone (831-722-4671). Equipment access is available upcoast of the Pajaro River via Palm Beach (which fronts the Pajaro Dunes Colony) and/or Sunset State Beach, off San Andreas Road.

Land Access: Northern river mouth access via attended gate at private residential community. Beach and river mouth access from the Pajaro Dunes community at Pelican Point is footpath only. Heavy equipment access from Palm Beach State Park (2660 Beach Rd, Watsonville, CA 95076). Heavy equipment access from Zmudowski State Beach, gated road (201 Giberson Rd, Moss Landing, CA 95039).

On-Water Limitations: Nearest vessel launch site is Moss Landing Harbor (3 nautical miles). It may be possible to launch skiffs from the Pelican Point parking lot into Watsonville Slough.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Portable toilet at Zmudowski State Beach parking lot.

Communications Problems: None.

