

**4-035-A Site Summary - Point Piedras Blancas****4-035-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - A - S04 SL - B - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 324 F-5**Decimal Degrees:** 35.66427 -121.28534**Site Description:**

Rocks offshore Point Piedras Blancas. Within the Coastal National Monument under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction; federally designated Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area. Site is also within the Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve and the Marine Conservation area MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region (fisheries protection areas offshore from Pt. Sierra Nevada south 5 miles and offshore 3 nautical miles). Inland portion of property is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park. Species of concern are present year-round. These offshore rocks provide habitat for the largest population of brandt's cormorants in San Luis Obispo County. Other birds include breeding pair of peregrine falcons, tufted puffins, pelagic cormorants, sooty shearwaters, black oyster catchers, pigeon guillemots, brown pelicans, and gulls. Marine mammals include harbor seals, California sea lions, steller sea lions, southern sea otters, and northern elephant seals. Approx. 650 mammals from August to March. There have been counts up to 2,000 mammals. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat).

**Resources at Risk:****ESI and Habitat:** 1A Exposed Rocky Shore

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

**List of Resources at Risk:**

|               | Resource Name          | Status  | Presence   | Sensitivity |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Birds         | tufted puffin          | FP, SSC |            |             |
| Invertebrates | black abalone          | FE      |            |             |
| Mammals       | California sea lion    | FP      | Year-round |             |
| Mammals       | harbor seal            | FP      | Year-round |             |
| Mammals       | Steller sea lion       | FP      | Year-round |             |
| Mammals       | Southern sea otter     | FT, SP  | Year-round |             |
| Mammals       | Northern elephant seal | FP      | Year-round |             |
| Reptiles      | leatherback sea turtle | FE      | Aug - 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    | /  | Central Coast Information Center                  | (805) 682-4711 |
| C    | /Coordinator                                 | Native American Heritage Commission               | (916) 373-3710 |
| E    | John Hodge/Associate Field Manager           | Bureau of Land Management, Coastal Natl. Monu     | (661) 301-1659 |
| T    | Leisyka Parrott/CCNM Manager                 | Bureau of Land Management                         | (707) 513-3891 |
| T    | Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor | California Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs  | (562) 343-3808 |
| T    | SURCOM (24-hr)/                              | California State Parks (Dispatch)                 | (951) 443-2969 |
| T    | /Emergency Responder, 24-hr                  | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary            | (831) 236-6797 |
| T    | Justin Viezicke/Marine Mammal Stranding      | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service            | (562) 506-4315 |
| T    | Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist              | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service            | (562) 481-4594 |
| T    | Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator    | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service            | (562) 980-4023 |
| T    | /Spill Response Coordinator                  | US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species | (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:**

Marine mammal pupping seasons: Northern elephant seals December - March; California sea lions May - June; harbor seals March - June; southern sea otters year-round. Leatherback sea turtles are most commonly observed August - November. Peak bird nesting is from March - September.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles extends from shore out to 100 miles offshore. Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles and if approached closely by a marine mammal or turtle while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel. To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Site access with permission from BLM, Coastal National Monument, John Hodge (661) 301-1659. The site is also within the Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve and the Marine Conservation area MPA. Inland portion of property is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-035.1** **Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) are the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

**Directions:** From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N). Lighthouse road is located at post mile marker 63.77, approx. 10 miles north of San Simeon. From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1, Morro Bay exit, in San Luis Obispo. Continue as above.

**Land Access:** Primarily boat access; limited foot access to point.

**On-Water Limitations:** Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 40 miles south.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging area and Command Post: U.S. Geologic Survey research facility is located at the lighthouse. Staging, parking, water and phones available. State Parks office is at Hearst Castle. Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport is 1 hour inland. Private Landing strip for small planes, located north of Hearst Castle Visitors Center, approx. 15 min south.

**Communications Problems:** None.

**Additional Operational Comments:**



