

**4-055-A Site Summary - Arroyo Del Puerto Creek****4-055-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - B - S04**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 324 G-6**Decimal Degrees:** 35.64307 -121.18853**Site Description:**

Arroyo del Puerto Inlet at WR Hearst State Beach, is a small creek with a modest marsh along the channel margin of this inlet. Fronted by fine grained sandy beach (WR Hearst State Beach). Picnic area behind/on beach. This site is also within Monterey Bay National Marine sanctuary and the Sea Otter Game Refuge. Species of concern are present year-round. Abundant shorebirds and seabirds including gulls, brown pelicans, grebes and marbled godwits observed here year-round. Tidewater gobies, California red-legged frogs, steelhead, and western pond turtles in this creek. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles extends from shore out to 100 miles offshore; creek critical habitat for tidewater goby and steelhead. Southern sea otters and harbor seals are present year-round. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat).

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

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov	
Reptiles	Western pond turtle	SSC	Year-round	

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
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
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 Viezbicke/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:**

Tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - July; California red-legged frogs peak breeding November - March; steelhead spawn March - July; leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November. Marine mammal pupping seasons: Harbor seals March - June; southern sea otters year-round.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in riparian/wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland/riparian areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments. If creek conditions allow, boom/fencing deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across creek to position the boom/fencing to reduce disturbance. Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies (endangered) especially April-July, goby nesting season. Steelhead peak spawning March - July. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush for gobies. November - March minimize trampling estuary/creek vegetation due to frog breeding. Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Hearst San Simeon State Park property.

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-055.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

**Strategy:** When creek mouth is open block entrance with short skirted containment boom (swamp boom) at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences; place above high tide line. If creek conditions allow, boom deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position the boom (and fence posts or anchors on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Consider booming shorelines of inlet to prevent oiling. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check boom for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp			100	feet	
Anchor				2		
Staff				4		
skimmer				1		
Vehicle	ATV			1		

**Strategy: 4-055.2 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

**Strategy:** When creek mouth is closed install excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal wash over. When creek mouth is open use a filter fence barrier for exclusion/containment. Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 30 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, and the spill consists of heavy oil. If creek conditions allow, filter fence deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position fencing (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Maintenance/monitoring of filter fencing necessary.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing			100	feet	
stakes				20		
Staff				4		
skimmer				1		
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-055.3 Objective:** Build Berm

**Strategy:** When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block creek entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Cover berm with plastic sheeting to minimize erosion; and consider backing berm with 10" swamp boom and/or sorbent boom. To create protective berm, take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. Manual building of berm preferred over heavy equipment even when heavy equipment can access site. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check for berm effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Heavy Equip	Backhoe					
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
skimmer				1		
Piping						
Vehicle	ATV			1		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit, in San Luis Obispo. Continue on Hwy 1 N to Hearst Castle (post mile marker 57.82), turn left onto San Simeon Rd. Turn left into "William Hearst State Beach" parking lot. Drive to the end of the lot to access the inlet. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Take Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N) William Hearst State Beach.

**Land Access:** Foot and vehicle or ATV access w/ State Park permission - locked gate.

**On-Water Limitations:** Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp approx. 30 miles south.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging Area: Parking lot at State Beach. Command Post: Hotels in San Simeon; State Park office at Hearst Castle. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport is Approx. 45 min. inland. Private landing strip is approx. 5 min. north of Hearst Castle Visitors Center.

**Communications Problems:** None.

**Additional Operational Comments:**

