

**4-120-B Site Summary - Cayucos Point and San Geronimo Creek****4-120-B****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - D - S002**NOAA Chart:** 18703**Map Book:** 590 D-2**Decimal Degrees:** 35.44637 -120.94022**Site Description:**

Estero Bluffs State Park property (State Park goes from Villa Creek south to N. Ocean Blvd. in northern Cayucos). Cayucos Point and to the north is a wave-cut rock platform and is a major harbor seal haul out. Mixed sand and gravel pocket beaches in between rocky platforms; rocky platform approx. 1/2 mile long. San Geronimo Creek empties in small pocket sandy/gravel beach. The 3.5-mile long coastline contains rocky intertidal tide pool habitat, and sandy coves with coastal terrace grasslands above. This rocky platform is a major harbor seal haul out. 1,200 mammals have been observed here. Southern sea otters can also be observed offshore. These species are present year-round. American black oystercatchers, grebes, pigeon guillemots, and brown pelicans can be observed here. Creek is Tidewater goby designated critical habitat. California red-legged frogs and western pond turtles may be found in the creek. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Offshore is designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles.

**Resources at Risk:****ESI and Habitat:** 4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

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

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	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	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	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
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:**

Marine mammal pupping seasons: Harbor seal March - June; southern sea otters year-round. Tidewater gobies nesting in estuary sediments April - July; leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November. California red-legged frogs breed November - April; western pond turtles breed May - August.

**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. 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. Wave wash over may carry oil over natural berm into the lagoon during extreme onshore and tidal conditions. Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals. To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds when possible. Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles (designated critical habitat for leatherback 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. Black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Within Estero Bluffs State Park.

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

**Strategy: 4-120.1**    **Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

**4-120-B Site Strategy - Cayucos Point and San Geronimo Creek****4-120-B**

**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. 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		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		

**Strategy: 4-120.2 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				10		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-120.3 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. 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
Skimmer				1		
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
Piping						

**Strategy: 4-120.4 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 south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. The site is approx. 1 mile north of Cayucos Creek. Vista turnouts for access to pocket beaches. From the north: Take Hwy 101 or 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S to Cayucos Point, approx. 1 mile north of Cayucos Creek.

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*Land Access:* Foot access only.

*On-Water Limitations:* Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp is approx. 8 miles south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Command Post: Cayucos Veteran's Memorial building (support services needed). U.S. Coast Guard office in Morro Bay, approx. 8 miles South. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo. Staging Area: Turnouts along HWY 1 and/or Veterans Memorial Building parking lot at south end of Cayucos County Beach, contact (805) 995-1228 or county OES for alternate number. Chevron Estero Bay Marine Terminal is approx. 4 miles south. Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 40 min south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min inland.

*Communications Problems:* None.

*Additional Operational Comments:*



