

County: San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - F - S006*NOAA Chart:* 18703*Map Book:* 631 G-3*Decimal Degrees:* 35.34057 -120.84211**Site Description:**

Chorro Creek Inlet is in the back bay of Morro Bay and is part of Morro Bay State Park. Is one of the main contributors of freshwater to the estuary. Inland, Chorro Creek supports dense riparian vegetation, which serves as an important habitat. Chorro Creek is an area of special biological importance and is designated steelhead trout (threatened) critical habitat. Tidewater gobies (endangered), California red-legged frogs (threatened) and western pond turtles (species of special concern) in this creek. Creek channels through extensive salt marsh area dominated by pickleweed. In some areas of slightly higher ground, pickleweed is mixed with patches of Saltgrass and jaumea. This area is an important shorebird and waterfowl feeding area. Some birds also use the marsh habitat for nesting and resting.

Morro Bay has a large expanse of salt marshes, tidal flats, and eel grass beds, one of the most extensive in California; and is used by over 40 special, threatened, or endangered species. Most species found within Morro Bay are present year-round, however some are seasonal for example buffleheads, white pelicans, and black brandt in the winter. Sensitive plants include marsh sandwort, California seablite, and salt marsh bird's-beak (at the south end of the marsh). Morro Bay is also designated as the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area MPA and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 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	wading birds		Year-round	
Birds	waterfowl		Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Plants	salt marsh bird's beak	FE, SE	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
O	Ted Schiafone/Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Department	(805) 772-6255
O	Melodie Grubbs/	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs	(562) 343-3808
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
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	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:

Red-legged frog breeding Nov.-April. Steelhead (critical habitat) peak spawning March - July. Tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April-July. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

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. Place temporary ramps (e.g. plywood sheets) in sensitive marshy areas where heavy use is expected. 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. Steelhead (critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, and State Dept. of Parks and Recreation should be consulted before staging equipment. Morro Bay State Marine Reserve MPA.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II****Strategy: 4-225.1 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

Strategy: Fencing/pompoms should be placed as close as possible, where the marsh vegetation (Pickleweed) ends, and the mudflats begin; but tide height needs to be considered. Tend boom every tidal cycle. Chorro Creek Inlet can be accessed by walking along the edge of mudflats at low tide in front of marsh vegetation which can be accessed by a hiking path at the south end of State Park Marina parking lot. If conditions allow, fence/pom-pom deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person position booming (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Check and maintain fencing for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit
Fence	Construction Fencing			150	feet
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)				
Stakes				15	
Misc.	Stake Driver			1	
Staff				4	
skimmer				1	

Last Page Update**Strategy: 4-225.2 Objective:** Deploy Sorbent Boom

Strategy: Place sorbent boom at creek mouth staked in place with fence posts. Boom should be placed as close as possible, where the marsh vegetation (Pickleweed) ends, and the mudflats begin; but tide height needs to be considered. Tend boom every tidal cycle. Chorro Creek Inlet can be accessed by walking along the edge of mudflats at low tide in front of marsh vegetation which can be accessed by a hiking path at the south end of State Park Marina parking lot. The number of personnel walking on the flats should be kept to a minimum. Check/maintain boom for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit
Boom	Sorbent Boom			450	feet
Misc.	stake			20	
Misc.	Stake Driver			1	
Staff				4	
skimmer				1	

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: From the south take Hwy 101 N to Morro Bay- Hwy 1 exit in San Luis Obispo (turn right on Santa Rosa St. which is Hwy 1). In Morro Bay take the Morro Bay Blvd. Exit off Hwy 1. Go straight onto Morro Bay Blvd. To Main St. and turn left on Main St. Main St. turns into State Park Road. Marina/trail to creek is across the street from golf course on State Park Rd. From the north take Hwy 101 S (or 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S), and take the Main St. exit, turn right off Hwy 1 in Morro Bay. Go through town and Main St. turns into State Park Rd.

4-225-A Site Strategy - Chorro Creek

4-225-A

Land Access: Foot access only from State Park Marina south end of parking lot

On-Water Limitations: Morro Bay boat launch facility.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging Area: Marina parking lot. Command Post: U.S. Coast Guard or Harbor Patrol offices in Morro Bay. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south, Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

Communications Problems:

