

**4-240-A Site Summary - Cuesta by the Sea Inlet****4-240-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - F - S007**NOAA Chart:** 18703**Map Book:** 631 F-5**Decimal Degrees:** 35.32047 -120.85081**Site Description:**

Cuesta by the Sea is a small inlet with sheltered mudflats in the back bay of Morro Bay. This is in a residential area of the back bay. 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 |             |
| Plants     | salt marsh bird's beak     | FE, SE  | Year-round |             |
| 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 |
| 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    | Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding     | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service            | (562) 506-4315 |
| 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. Western pond turtles breed May-Aug.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Foot access only.

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-240.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

**Strategy:** Block inlet with short skirted containment boom (swamp boom) at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. In this location boom can be deployed from the land; minimize disturbance. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check boom for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

| Equipment | Sub-Type | Size | Unit | QTY | Unit | Last Page Update |
|-----------|----------|------|------|-----|------|------------------|
| Boom      | Swamp    |      |      | 350 | feet |                  |
| Anchor    |          |      |      | 2   |      |                  |
| skimmer   |          |      |      | 1   |      |                  |
| Staff     |          |      |      | 4   |      |                  |
| boat      | Skiff    |      |      | 2   |      |                  |

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Los Osos Valley Rd. (LOVR) exit, just south of San Luis Obispo. Take LOVR for approx. 10 miles to Pine Ave., turn right on Pine, left on Ramona, right on Mitchell, Left on Doris to Lupin. Beach access and small parking area at Dorris St. and Lupine St. intersection. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 1 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S) to South Bay Blvd. (Los Osos/Baywood Park) exit. Stay on South Bay Blvd. (It veers to the left, go over two bridges) to Santa Ysabel Ave., turn right on Santa Ysabel Ave., to 7th St., turn left on 7th St. then right in Romona Ave. Take Romona until it turns into Lupine St. turn right.

**Land Access:** Foot access only from parking area.

**On-Water Limitations:** Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging Area: The small parking area can be used as a staging area. Command Post: Coast Guard or Harbor Dept. offices in Morro Bay. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

**Communications Problems:** None.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-240 Name: Cuesta by the Sea Inlet

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XXXXXXXXXXXX Swamp Boom