

4-425-A Site Summary - Arroyo Grande Creek**4-425-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - J - S002**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 734 D-1**Decimal Degrees:** 35.10078 -120.631**Site Description:**

Arroyo Grande Creek mouth is within the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, (State Beach). Off-road vehicles drive on this beach and drive across creek mouth. Behind beach Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve flows to Meadow Creek, a remnant marsh drainage system that enters Arroyo Grande Creek lagoon just upstream of Arroyo Grande creek mouth. The beach is fine to medium grained relatively flat sand beach. This is the only creek in San Luis Obispo County with a flood control device. This creek has two flap gates, the first by Oceano Lagoon and the second is upstream across the channel. These gates are automatic gravity flap gates which automatically shut if water comes in. Contact County Flood Control (805) 781-5252. High recreational use beach. Most of the species are present year-round. Creek critical habitat for steelhead and tidewater gobies; beach critical habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns. Pismo clams found on this beach. The Pismo Lake Natural Reserve is habitat of over-wintering species such as sandpipers and permanent residents such as herons, egrets, rails, grebes, dabbling ducks, and diving ducks. Just offshore is designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Sea otters common offshore.

Resources at Risk:**ESI and Habitat:** 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr - Sep	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Invertebrates	Pismo clam		Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	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
O	Brian Owens/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, SLO	(562) 370-4770
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
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:

Steelhead peak spawning March - July; California red-legged frogs breed November - April; western pond turtles breed May - August; tidewater gobies nest in estuary sediments April - July; western snowy plovers nest March - September; California least terns nest March - September. Refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns. Leatherback sea turtles are most commonly observed Aug. - Nov. Sea otters pup 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. 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. Steelhead (critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July. Tidewater gobies nest in estuary sediments April - July. California red-legged frogs breed November - April; western pond turtles breed May - August; western snowy plovers nest March - September; California least terns nest April - September; refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns. Leatherback sea turtles are most commonly observed Aug. - Nov offshore.

Hazard and Restrictions:

State Park, high recreational use.

Site Strategies:

Site Validation Level: II

Strategy: 4-425.1 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			150	feet	
Anchor				2		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		
Vehicle	ATV			1		

Strategy: 4-425.2 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			150	feet	
skimmer				1		
Stakes				15		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		
Vehicle	ATV			1		

Strategy: 4-425.3 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					
Skimmer				1		
Sandbags						
Piping						
Staff				6		

Logistics:

Directions: From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Grand Ave. exit in Arroyo Grande; to Pacific Blvd. (Hwy 1), turn left (south) approx. 1 mile to Pier Ave., turn right onto Pier Ave. to southern beach access (Grand Ave. is northern beach access). Can drive on the beach in this location. Arroyo Grande Creek is approx. 1/2 mile south of the beach. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Grand Ave. exit in Arroyo Grande, turn right (west) approx. 3 miles to Pacific Blvd. (Hwy 1), turn left (south) approx. 1 mile to Pier Ave., turn right onto Pier Ave. to southern beach access (Grand Ave. is northern beach access). Can drive on the beach in this location. Arroyo Grande Creek is approx. 1/2 mile south of the beach.

Land Access: Vehicle/heavy equipment. access Pier Ave. or Grand Ave.

On-Water Limitations: Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis approx. 15 miles North.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging Area: State Beach parking lot at Grand Ave. or Pier Ave. beach entrance. Command Post: State Parks Ranger Station, 928 Pacific Blvd (HWY 1; approx. 1/2 mi north of Pier Ave; between Pier Ave and Grand Ave), Oceano, (805) 473-7220. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo. Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 15 min. north.

Communications Problems: None.

