

**4-435-A Site Summary - Oso Flaco Creek****4-435-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - J - S002**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 754 C-3**Decimal Degrees:** 35.03168 -120.63381**Site Description:**

Oso Flaco Creek inlet fronted by fine-medium grained sandy beach. Owned and managed by State Department of Parks and Recreation. This beach is the southern end of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area but usually no vehicles are allowed on this portion of the beach; check with State Parks for vehicle access from Offroad Vehicular Recreation Area beach access from Pier Ave. in Grover Beach. From parking area is a boardwalk across Oso Flaco Lake with path out to beach. From parking area to beach is approximately 1 mile walk along boardwalk that parallels Oso Flaco Creek. Species of concern are present year-round. Beach designated critical habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns. California red-legged frogs in creek. Herons, ducks, grebes, raptors, yellow warblers, brown pelicans. Southern sea otters are common offshore. A number of sensitive plant species are in this area including la graciosa thistle, beach spectacle pod, crisp monardella, San Luis Obispo monardella, soft-leaved indian paintbrush and the endangered marsh sandwort. Also, Morro Bay blue butterfly, western spade-foot toads, horned lizards, silvery legless lizards in the back dunes. Just offshore is designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles.

**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	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Plants	La Graciosa thistle	FE, ST	Year-round	
Plants	beach spectaclepod	ST	Year-round	
Plants	crisp monardella		Year-round	
Reptiles	California legless lizard	SSC	Year-round	
Reptiles	western spade-foot toad	SSC	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	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
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:**

California red-legged frogs breed Nov. - April; western pond turtles breed May - August; California least terns nest April - September; western snowy plovers 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 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. 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. Steelhead (critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July. Snowy plover designated critical habitat, nesting March - Sept; 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.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

State Beach is managed by State Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II****Strategy: 4-435.1 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		
Staff				4		
Vehicle	ATV			1		

**Strategy: 4-435.2 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		
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-435.3 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
skimmer				1		
Heavy Equip	Backhoe					
Piping						
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
Vehicle	ATV			1		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 101 S) to Halcyon Rd. exit in Arroyo Grande and go straight (south) to Hwy 1 (Cienega St. which turns into Mesa View Dr.), turn left on Hwy 1. Take Hwy 1 (for approx. 5 miles) to Oso Flaco Lake Rd., turn right to kiosk and parking area. Access by foot only through park or 4-wheel drive/ATV access via beach from Pismo Offroad Vehicular Rec. Area Pier Ave. beach entrance in Grover Beach with State Park permission. From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 166 W exit Main St. in Santa Maria. Take Hwy 166 to Hwy 1 (Cabrillo Hwy), turn right on hwy 1 to Oso Flaco Lake Rd., turn left on Oso Flaco Lake Rd., to kiosk and parking area.

**Land Access:** Foot access at Oso Flaco or vehicle access from Pier Ave at low tide with agency approval.

**On-Water Limitations:** Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis is approx. 30 miles north.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging Area: Parking area at Oso Flaco Lake or Pismo State Beach parking lot at Pier Ave. 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 San Luis Obispo office. Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 30 min. north. Oceano Airport for small planes, approx. 10 miles north, Santa Maria Airport approx. 15 miles southeast.

**Communications Problems:** None.



