

**4-550-A Site Summary - Ocean (Wall and Surf) Beach****4-550-A****County:** Santa Barbara      **ACP Division/Segment:** SB - D - S01      SB - D - S02      SB - D - S03      SB - D - S04**NOAA Chart:** 18700      **Map Book:** 365 C x 2-4      **Decimal Degrees:** 34.684444 -120.60345**Site Description:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Space Force Base (see Land Access for more info). This is an approximately 6-mile-long stretch of beach. North of the Santa Ynez River is Wall Beach and south of the Santa Ynez River is known as Surf Beach. These are wide, open coastal unprotected medium grain sand beaches, with principal access limited primarily to a foot trail along the south bank of the Santa Ynez River and on the north side of the Santa Ynez River at Wall Beach. Vandenberg State Marine Reserve is offshore of this site.

**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
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr-Sep	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	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
E	Ryan Heath/Park Manager- North	Santa Barbara County Park Department	(805) 896-7007
E	/Law Enforcement Desk (24hr)	Vandenberg Space Force Base	(805) 606-3911
E	Wayne Moses/Chief Conservation Officer	Vandenberg Space Force Base	(805) 606-6804
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs	(562) 343-3808
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:**

Western snowy plovers nest from Mar-Sep and California least terns' nest from Apr-Sep.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

The best response options for protecting this shoreline are to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore areas before it reaches inshore areas. The dunes and upper beaches provide critical nesting habitat for two Threatened/Endangered birds. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists. Dune habitats and associated biota along the upper beach are vulnerable to damage from trampling, vehicular traffic and heavy equipment activities.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Space Force Base (see Land Access for more info).

A. Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

B. Safety Considerations- Roads, trails, beach cliffs and hillsides may be unstable in wet weather. Beware of flashfloods in canyons during rainy weather, ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes. Beware of trains at unregulated Railroad Crossings. Care must be taken when working on beaches backed by high cliffs. Safe entries to and exits from beaches in this area are related to tides and beach sand levels- YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH - Plan accordingly.

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

**Strategy: 4-550.1** **Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** There are no feasible onshore protection strategies for this area. Attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches the shoreline. Protect the Marine Protected Area (MPA) boundaries. Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

**Directions:** From Lompoc, take Hwy. 246 (Ocean Ave) west approx. 10 miles to Ocean Beach County Park entrance. Small boats can be launched into the lagoon from the parking lot. Foot traffic only, vehicular access to beach from the Surf parking lot is restricted to ATVs only. Vehicles (4WD and heavy equipment) may access beach approx. 1 mile north of the Santa Ynez River on VSFB property from the Wall Beach parking lot. During dry periods, when the mouth of the Santa Ynez River is closed, approximately 6 miles of Ocean and Wall beaches are accessible from this point.

**Land Access:** This site is located on Vandenberg Space Force Base. Access to beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Space Force Base. For access authorization to air base roadways, lands and shorelines, responders must call the Law Enforcement Desk at 805-606-3911 and the VSFB Conservation Office at 805-606-6804. An escort may be required in some locations.

**On-Water Limitations:** Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading occur at the "Boat House" in the vicinity of Rocky Point just south of Point Arguello. These facilities could be utilized with permission from VSFB. Area is rocky.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Wall Beach - Staging areas for heavy equipment with access to Wall beach only when Santa Ynez River is flowing. When the river is not flowing access to entire 6 miles of coast. Access and Staging area for ATVs at Surf Beach parking lot.

**Communications Problems:** Cell phone communications are limited.

**Additional Operational Comments:** Due to the probable occurrence of western snowy plovers and/or California least terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-550 Name: Ocean (Wall and Surf) Beach

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 11/14/2023

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**