

**4-615-A Site Summary - El Capitan Creek****4-615-A****County:** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment:** SB - K - S01**NOAA Chart:** 18721**Map Book:** 981 D x 5-6**Decimal Degrees:****Site Description:**

El Capitan beach state park covers 1.8 miles of shoreline in the vicinity of the creek mouth. El Capitan is a relatively small creek (15-30' wide) that empties out onto a mixed sand, gravel, cobble, boulder point. Numerous shorebirds and seabirds (brown pelicans) are present. Grunion spawning occurs in the spring and summer during high tides.

**Resources at Risk:****ESI and Habitat:** 9B Vegetated low banks

6A Gravel Beach

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

1A Exposed Rocky Shore

**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	Oct-Feb	
Fish	California grunion		Mar-Aug	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	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	/Central Control Plant Operations (24hr)	ExxonMobil	(805) 961-4055
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
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:**

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

The lagoon is habitat for sensitive species. Both habitat and species can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in stream, lagoon, and associated vegetation; avoid trampling oil into sediments; and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

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. Sand surface may be soft. YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH - Plan accordingly.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: V****Strategy: 4-615.1 Objective:** Exclude Oil

**Strategy:** Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration that forms an adjustable oil collection pocket that can accommodate changes in flow direction. Back exclusion booms with sorbent booms to minimize leakage. Line the shorelines and any side channels within the inlet to prevent collateral oiling. If there is recoverable oil on-water, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms as needed to maintain effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit
Boom	Swamp Boom			40	feet
Boom	Sorbent Boom			40	feet
Vehicle	ATV			1	
Staff				5	
Anchor				2	

**Last Page Update***Strategy Updated:**Last Test: 5/20/2015***Strategy: 4-615.2 Objective:** Build Sandbag Dam

**Strategy:** Build a sandbag exclusion/containment dam using onsite materials or imported materials as directed by CDFW biologist. Use clean low silt content sand. If using onsite materials obtain only from un-vegetated areas and have a cultural specialist onsite to monitor. Install underflow pipes and/or a spillway to regulate water flows as conditions dictate. Closely regulate water levels to reduce collateral oiling. If there is recoverable oil on-water, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit
Boom	Sorbent Boom			40	feet
stakes				5	
Staff				5	
Vehicle	ATV			1	
Sandbags				50	

**Last Page Update****Strategy: 4-615.3 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

**Strategy:** Construct a filter fence across the front of the channel where the inlet is narrowest, water flows are low or dry, the ground can receive and hold metal stakes, and the spill is heavy oil. Monitor barrier and replace pom-poms as necessary to maintain effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit
Fence	Construction Fencing	4 x 100	feet	1	Rolls
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)			40	
stakes	T-posts			16	

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Misc.	Stake Driver	1
Vehicle	ATV	1
Staff		5

**Strategy: 4-615.4 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

**Strategy:** Consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Hand crews to move and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials above high-tide line. Dispose of trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Misc.	Trash Bags					
Staff				5		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** From US 101 (West of Santa Barbara) exit El Capitan State Beach Park. Access to the creek and surrounding beaches is very good for 4-wheel drive vehicles.

**Land Access:** Shoreline Access – Beach access roads may require regrading before vehicles can enter or exit beaches. Barriers to longshore movement are variable according to tides and sand levels.

**On-Water Limitations:** Santa Barbara Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor for full-service berthing, launching and fueling.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:**

**Communications Problems:** none

**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.

