

4-850-A Site Summary - Santa Cruz Island: Posa Anchorage Lagoon**4-850-A****County:** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment:** CI - C - S000**NOAA Chart:** 18720**Map Book:** NA**Decimal Degrees:** 33.97972 -119.86806**Site Description:**

This site occurs on the south-west side of Santa Cruz Island on The Nature Conservancy property. Posa Anchorage has a moderate sized wetland (about 75 m inland of the ocean) with a well-defined channel running through willows and scrub vegetation. This is an intermittent stream. The surrounding fine to medium-grained beach is approximately 50 m wide and two miles long, backed by bluffs in the area of the wetland, with rocky headlands further to the NW and SE. The site faces SW and is subject to strong winds and surf. There is a possibility that the lagoon will be open to the ocean during periods of high rainfall or with extreme high tides.

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

9B Vegetated low banks

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

1C Exposed rocky cliffs with boulder talus base

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	brown pelican	FP, SP	Year-round	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Mammals	sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	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	Andrew Yamagiwa/Manager	The Nature Conservancy, Santa Cruz Island	(559) 618-1488
T	/Emergency Response Hotline	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 729-0611
T	Sean Hastings/24/7	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 705-1790
T	/Chief Ranger	Channel Islands National Park	(805) 218-0251
T	/Dispatch	Channel Islands National Park	(559) 565-4221
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:

The Nature Conservancy owns approximately 75% of Santa Cruz Island as a preservation area. The other 25% is owned by the National Park Service.

Western snowy plovers nest from Mar-Sep. California brown pelicans will roost in this area. Occasional California sea lions and harbor seals can be found offshore.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Santa Cruz Island is located 20 miles from the mainland and is home to large numbers of seals and sea lions as well as colonies of seabirds. At over 96 square miles, Santa Cruz Island is California's largest island and has 77 miles of craggy coastline cliffs, giant sea caves, pristine tidepools, and expansive beaches. Trustee agencies may not sanction onshore response activities. Refer to and comply with introductory section before initiating any response activities.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Conditions in the Santa Barbara Channel and around the islands are variable and the ocean is unforgiving. Only experienced skippers with vessels capable of withstanding severe weather are advised to make the cross-channel passage. Major shipping lanes lie between the islands and the mainland.

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

Strategy: 4-850.1 Objective: Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

Strategy: Refer to Channel Islands Introduction Section (especially Biosecurity) before conducting any shoreline precleaning. A natural resource trustee and/or an archaeologist (usually a CINP employee) may need to be on-site during work to ensure compliance with Channel Island response restrictions. Small hand crews of no more than 10 persons remove and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials which could become oiled and create environmental hazards and disposal problems. Segregate and dispose of trash. Replace unoled 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
Staff				5		

Strategy: 4-850.2 Objective: Build Berm

Strategy: Berming - Build an earthen berm across the mouth of the inlet using onsite materials obtained from unvegetated areas below the high tide line to minimize damage to wildlife and habitat. Install under flow pipes in the berm to allow through flows and/or a spillway with a filter barrier to accommodate flow increases as weather conditions dictate. Cover the berm with sheet plastic to minimize erosion. Second, back the berm with swamp and sorbent booms to prevent contamination from entrainment, leakage and or wash over. Monitor berm and associated features to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Sorbent Boom			240	feet	
Sandbags				200		
Plastic sheeting	Visqueen			1	Rolls	
Piping	6"			3		

Logistics:

Directions: Only by boat or aircraft. Closest harbors are Santa Barbara and Ventura. Channel Islands Aviation is located at Camarillo Airport and is able to fly and land on the islands. All access to the Channel Islands must be coordinated with National Parks and must follow biosecurity protocols. Refer to the introductory section for more information.

Land Access:

On-Water Limitations: Vessel landing available at Prisoners Harbor (Northeast face of center of island) and Scorpion Harbor (Northeast end of island). Caution: monitor sea conditions and depth before attempting approach.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:

Communications Problems: Cell phone reception unreliable. Marine VHF or satellite phone are the best options.

Additional Operational Comments: Each island is equipped with at least 1 base station radio for communication with park headquarters and a marine band radio.

