

County: **San Luis Obispo**  
 USGS Quad: **Pismo Beach**

Thomas Guide Location  
 714 C-3

Latitude N  
 35,13760

Longitude W  
 120.63847

NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division J map. Pismo Creek Inlet and estuary, creek mouth is in Pismo State Beach. High recreational area. Numerous business in this area. Freeport McMoRan Oil and Gas Inc. (FMO&G) has spill response equipment at their facility. ConocoPhillips also operates a crude oil transportation pipeline which crosses Pismo Creek near Addie/ Dolliver Bridge; pipeline runs underneath creek estuary. FMO&G oil storage and production facility is located approx. 4 miles upstream. Both are potential inland spill sources for an oil spill. FMO&G has NPDES permit associated with water reclamation project and have potential ability to reduce or increase flow into creek.

Ca. Dept. Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, NMFS should be consulted before any earth moving in, or next to creek.

#### SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Most the species discussed above are present year round.

Tidewater goby (critical habitat) peak nesting in estuary sediments April-July. Steelhead (critical habitat) peak spawning March - July. Along the sea shore designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

Western snowy plovers and least terns nest March-Sept. Over-wintering during the non-nesting months of October to March adult snowy plovers may continue to utilize beach habitats. Adult Least terns migrate south.

Calif. Dept. Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, and State Department of Parks and Recreation should be consulted before staging motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted.

#### RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Estuary and riparian habitats due to gobies and steelhead; and beach due to snowy plovers and least terns.

Western snowy plovers nest on this beach. Snowy plovers may have active nests, or chicks may be actively moving about the area. Care should be given to minimize disturbance and avoid injury to either nests, or chicks. Snowy plovers are small, white and tan colored shore birds. Beach bird-nesting sites are shallow depressions scratched out from the sand surface on sandy beaches above the highest tide line. The nest sites are typically very well disguised and difficult to see, even for trained eyes. Nest sites may contain either eggs, or chicks which are potentially vulnerable to trampling by vehicles or foot traffic. Snowy plover adults and chicks are known to move between the nest sites and the active water line. Over-wintering snowy plover adults may be foraging throughout the response area.

Snowy plover adults forage while wadding along the shoreline. Least tern adults dive into the water to forage in shallow, nearshore areas of the open coast, embayments, estuaries, and dune lakes.

Birds include gulls, terns, snowy plovers (threatened), California least terns (endangered), yellowlegs, sanderlings on the beach and herons, egrets, mallards, swallows, coots, loons, rails are found in this creek/estuary.

Southern sea otters, California sea lions, and harbor seals can be observed offshore.

Designated critical habitat for the endangered tidewater goby and steelhead trout. Also pond turtles (species of special concern), are found in this creek.

Pismo clams are found in moderate-high concentrations on the beach fronting Pismo Creek. Sensitive plants in the dunes include beach spectacle pod, marsh sandwort, and surf thistle.

#### CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Archaeological sites are also of concern in this area. Contact SHPO and Native American Heritage Commission

#### KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/T	District Office	State Dept. Parks & Rec Oceano Dunes District	(805) 773-7170
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
O	Paul Delorenzo Sr. Production Foreman	Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas	(805) 547-8969
E	Byron Everist Sr. Env. H&S Advisor	Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas	(805) 934-8219
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712

O	Mark Mitchell	ConocoPhillips	(805) 438-6201
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

## 4-415 -A Site Strategy - Pismo Creek Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location

714 C-3 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART

Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

## 4-415 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

35,1376 120.63847

### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

Fish Disturbance - Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies especially April-July goby nesting season; Steelhead peak spawning March - July. This creek is designated critical habitat for both species. 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 on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. Any anchors deployed in water should be placed in waters greater than 4 feet deep to avoid crushing tidewater goby burrows. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush.

Streamside Vegetation - Minimize disturbance to streamside vegetation.

Wetland/riparian habitat – Mud flats, marshlands, and creeks contain fragile habitat subject to damage from human activities such as walking and vehicle use. Oil can be trampled into sediments by responders where it will not be recoverable. Avoid walking in mudflats, marshy areas, and riparian habitat/waterways whenever possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland areas to access cleanup sites, restrict the number and size of pathways. Mark authorized pathways with flagging or tape. Place temporary ramps (e.g. plywood sheets) in sensitive marshy areas where heavy use is expected.

PRIMARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: During nesting season, March-September, to aid in avoiding damage to nests, consider delineation of nesting areas and designate responder "pathways" with flagging or tape. Nests and critical habitat protection areas will require oversight by natural resource specialist prior to response effort execution. All responders should be briefed on procedures for avoiding birds and nest sites to aid in minimizing damage to nest sites and associated wildlife. Oil spill response and cleanup activity should be limited to locations below high tide line unless otherwise authorized by trustee agency specialist, or designee (biological monitor). The area to be protected will be monitored by an assigned biological monitor. Oil removal will be conducted by hand crews unless other methods are recommended by the biological monitor. Pre-clean the beach and stockpile kelp and surfgrass rack in designated areas for re-distribution after response efforts are completed. A staging area will be determined as most suitable for response and natural resource protection. Travel on beach should be restricted to the wet sand as much as possible; vehicle traffic should be operated at slow enough speeds to avoid/minimize impacts to wildlife (15 MPH); if possible avoid driving over wrack.

SECONDARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: At the discretion of the biological monitor, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snowy plover or least tern eggs may be removed from nest's by authorized and qualified personnel to an approved facility to avoid injury. This determination will be made on-site utilizing oil trajectory and oil impact timing information.

### OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Dune Habitats – Minimize mechanical and human activities in vegetated dune habitat.

SHORELINE PRE-CLEANING may be warranted before oil reaches the beach when the shoreline is covered with kelp, driftwood, etc which could become oiled and create more oiled waste. Consult with trustees prior to engaging in activities on shoreline. Move unoiled vegetation, driftwood, etc. above the high tide line. When the shoreline is narrow, un-oiled debris may need to be stockpiled elsewhere. It is suggested that photos be taken to document distribution of beach debris prior to collection so that it can be replaced to its pre-spill distribution when spill cleanup is complete. Pre-cleaning of shorelines should be conducted by hand crews to the greatest practical extent to minimize disturbance to wildlife and their habitats.

To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds offshore when possible. Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles and if approached closely by a marine mammal or turtle while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel.

### HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Beach fronting creek is a State Beach (State Department of Parks and Recreation).

Freeport McMoRan Inc (FMO&G) oil production and storage facility is located approximately 4 miles upstream. FMO&G has NPDES permit associated with water reclamation project and have potential ability to reduce or increase flow into creek. A ConocoPhillips pipeline also crosses Pismo Creek near the bridge over estuary. Both are potential inland sources for an oil spill.

For inland spill, attempt to contain spill and recover oil as close to source of discharge as possible using sediment dikes, booming techniques, skimmers, vacuum trucks, and other appropriate means. Refer to Pismo Creek Upstream Strategy Sheet, ACP Site # 410, for more details.

## SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-415.1 Objective: Exclude oil from this creek with a containment berm.

-When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm (fine to medium grained sand), and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. To create protective

berm take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. When erosion from waves or overflows could erode berm, armor berm and banks by covering with plastic sheeting anchored by sand bags. When overflow could occur due to accumulation of water behind the containment berm install underflow piping and/or a spillway in the berm. When overwash could bring oil into inlet over berm back exclusion/containment berm with containment and/or sorbent booms and/or snare. Regular monitoring and maintenance will be necessary (2 staff twice daily). Check for berm effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom position and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

Strategy 4-415.2 Objective: Exclude oil from creek with boom.

When creek mouth is open block entrance with a short skirted containment boom at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. When suitable berm materials are unavailable and/or when tidal flows, waterflows, or water depths are too great for berming, install exclusion booms near mouth of Inlet/lagoon using short skirted boom and snare boom. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Consider lining river/stream bank, rip-rap, side channels, and sandy beaches within lagoon, seaward of the exclusion/containment booms to restrict oil to open water area of main channel to protect vegetated banks and sensitive areas within the inlet/estuary. Use swamp boom backed by sorbent booms, if waters are shallower, and use harbor boom backed by sorbent booms, when water depths are greater. Check/maintain boom for effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom positioning and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

Strategy 4-415.3 Objective: Exclude oil from creek with fencing.

When creek mouth is closed consider installing excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal washover.

When creek mouth is open use a filter barrier for exclusion/containment – Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 20 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, the spill consists of heavy petroleum, and berming or booming methods are not feasible due to lack of materials or accessibility. Construct a filter barrier across the channel using two parallel rows of metal stakes, upon which construction fencing is fastened. Place permeable materials such as snare or excelsior, between the two lines of fencing to capture oil. Re-adjust sorbent materials as necessary minimize entrainment and/or leakage and to accommodate flow, tidal, oceanic, and meteorological changes. Replace sorbent materials as necessary to maintain sorbent quality.

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-415.1								1 SSS	backhoe or sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	6	
4-415.2		300			2			1 SSS		4	
4-415.3			300 FF					1 SSS	Excelsior fencing, metal stakes	4	

## LOGISTICS

**DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)**

From the south: Take Hwy 101 N, off at Price St.. Exit (exit 190), straight to Ocean View Ave. left, to Cypress St. left to Addie St. to park with parking lot next to estuary.

From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to 41 W to 46 W to 101 s) to HWY 1/Dolliver St. (exit 191A); veer right to PCH/HWY 1/Dolliver St. , right on Park; left on Cypress to Addie St. to park with parking lot next to estuary.

**LAND ACCESS:** Vehicle/heavy equipment beach access w/ State Park permission

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Port San Luis approx. 15 miles north.  
and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp, approx. 30 miles north.

**FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:**

Staging Area: Parking lot at Addie St. park.

Command post: State Parks Headquarters at Pismo Beach.

Airports: SLO County Airport approx. 15 miles north, Oceano Airport for smaller planes is a few miles away.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

