

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Oceano**

Thomas Guide Location

714

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

Latitude N

35.0608

Longitude W

120.6292

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division J map. Pismo State Beach is a fine to medium grained sandy beach high recreational use. Approximately 4 miles upstream Pismo Creek is the Freeport McMoRan oil field (see site A-410).

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Most the species are present year round. Western snowy plovers and least terns nest March-September. 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.

Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

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.

Brown pelicans, threatened snowy plovers, endangered least terns, surfs scoters, grebes, loons and other sea and shore birds are present.

Harbor seals, sea lions and Southern sea otters can often be seen nearby.

Pismo clams are found on this beach. The California grunion may be present and spawn April-May.

Beach spectacle pod, surf thistle, la graciosa thistle, crisp monardella and soft leafed Indian paint brush (all sensitive plant species) are coastal dune plants in this area.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

There are archeological sites in the dunes. 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
T	Nancy Frost Ca Least Tern Breeding	CDFW	(858) 467-4208
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
T	Mike Harris Sea otter expert	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 772-1135
O	Brian Hatfield Marine mammal expert	Bio Res Div. USGS	(805) 927-3893
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
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:

4-420 -A Site Strategy - Pismo State Beach

County and Thomas Guide Location

714 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART

Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

4-420 -A

Latitude N

Longitude W

35.0608 120.6292

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

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.

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals. To protect seabirds offshore, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds 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.

Oil Burial - Wind drift and sand may bury beached oil.

SHORELINE PRE-CLEANING may be warranted before oil reaches beach when 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 un-oiled vegetation, driftwood, etc. above high tide line. When 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. Pre-cleaning of shorelines should be conducted by hand crews to greatest practical extent to minimize disturbance to wildlife and their habitats.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

State Park property.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-420.1 Objective: Deflect/exclude oil from beach.

Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) is the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.

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
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4-420.1

Offshore containment & recovery

LOGISTICS

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

From the south: Hwy 101 exit Price Street in Pismo Beach; north on Price St. to Pomeroy Ave; left on Pomeroy to parking lot to Pismo Pier and Beach. To get to the south end of Pismo Beach you can take HWY 101 and get off at Grand Ave. in Arroyo Grande, go west all the way to end to State Beach parking lot; can drive on the beach in this location.

From the north: 101 South to HWY 1/Dolliver St. (exit 191A); to Pomeroy Ave; right to parking lot to Pismo Pier and Beach. To get to the south end of Pismo Beach you can take HWY 101 and get off at Grand Ave. in Arroyo Grande, go west all the way to end to State Beach parking lot; can drive on the beach in this location.

LAND ACCESS: Vehicle/heavy equipment access Pier Ave. or Grand Ave.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

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

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

Staging Area: State Beach parking lot at Grand Ave. beach entrance.

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

Airports: SLO County Airport approx. 15 min. north

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

