

County: **Santa Barbara**
 USGS Quad: **Casmalia**

Thomas Guide Location
 345 C x 10-11
 NOAA Chart: **18700**

Latitude N Longitude W
 34.773333 120.618333

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION B. Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Area 1 mile SE of Lion's Head, south to the southend of Minuteman Beach (beginning of rocks 1+ mile north of Purisima Pt.) Aprox. 6 miles of gravel beach backed by Rocky Cliffs. Includes areas of fine to medium grained sand beaches.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

March through September for Western snowy plovers (FT) nesting along upper beach. March through September for grunion spawning and small group of harbor seals 1/3 mile south of Lion's Head. All year for potential pismo clams. Leatherback turtle critical habitat.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

There are no sensitive inlets in this area, however, inshore waters within a mile of the beach, and shorelines contain sensitive intertidal habitat, roosting, haulout, rafting and foraging areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals all year.

Western snowy plovers (all year), brown pelicans (all year), Least tern (Apr-Sep).

Harbor seals (Mar-Jun), Southern sea otters.

Grunion (Mar-Sep), Surfperch, Salmon.

Black abalone (all year), Black abalone critical habitat, Pink Abalone, Red Abalone, Rock scallop, California mussel, and Pismo Clams.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist on VAFB, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting Ryan Christopher, Chief Cultural Resources VAFB (805) 605-0748, Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Central Coast Archeological Information Center (805) 893-7341.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E	George Croll Environmental Compliance	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-4749
E	Tom Devenoge Wildlife Biologist	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 605-2015
O	Emergency Command Post	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-9961
E	Rhys Evans Biologist (Birds and Otters)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-4198
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
E	Fish and Game Office (Access, ATV, Guides)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-6804
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
T	Mike Harris Marine Biologist	CDFW - OSPR (Marine Mammals & Sea Otters)	(831) 212-7090
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
E	Law Enforcement Desk (24hrs)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3911
E	Operator	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-1110
E	Edward Panas Chief Game Warden	Vandenberg AFB (Wildlife Protection)	(805) 606-6804
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
O	Public Affairs (Media Events)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3595
E	Rangeland Manager	Vandenberg AFB (Access to range lands)	(805) 606-3271
E	Christopher Ryan Chief Cultural Resources	Vandenberg AFB (Cultural Resources)	(805) 605-0748

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

1. RPI-ESI Maps (Central Calif Atlas)
2. Coastal Inlet Protection for Oil Spill Response (DFG, MSRC)
3. Inventory of Coastal Wetlands in Santa Barbara County - Interim Report. Ambrose 1993.
4. Shoreline Cleanup Plan Volumes I and II Shoreline Access. Texaco Trading and Transp 1990.

4-520 -A Site Strategy - Lion's Head to Purisima Point: North

County and Thomas Guide Location

345 C x 10-11 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART

18700

4-520 -A

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Longitude W

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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Primary spill threat from marine source. The best response options for protecting this shoreline are to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore areas before it reaches inshore areas and to pre-clean debris from beaches. Should oiling occur, cleanup oiled shorelines. The dunes and upper beaches provide critical nesting habitat for Threatened/Endangered birds. These animals can be killed and habitat can be damaged by oil and by response and 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.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Special Permission required for access via Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Water Contamination - Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in the Santa Barbara County area. Check with the Santa Barbara Ocean Quality Hotline, 805-681-4949, regarding health conditions prior to engaging in any activities which would require direct water contact. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

SITE STRATEGIES

Onshore response strategies for protecting onshore and nearshore resources in this area are extremely limited. Whenever possible, attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline. Access is limited in this area .

Strategy 4-520.1 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of wrack, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Shoreline Precleaning - 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. If heavy equipment is required for this operation, request trustee consultation and IC for authorization.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Special Equipment or comment No	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-520.1									102 1- Vehicle (4wd), 100 Trash Bags, 1 Hand Tools	5	

LOGISTICS

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

LAND ACCESS:

This site is located on Vandenberg Airforce Base. Access to beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Air Force Base. For access authorization to air base roadways, lands and shorelines responders must call the Law Enforcement Desk @ 805-606-3911 and the Fish and Wildlife Office @ 805-606-6804. An escort may be required in some locations.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Area is rocky.

Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading occur at the "Boat House" in the vicinity of Rocky Pt. just south of Pt Arguello. These facilities could be utilized with permission from VAFB. Area is rocky.

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

This area is isolated. Access to the beach is limited by cliffs and sensitive dune habitat. Beaches are interrupted by cobbles and bedrock outcroppings.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Cell phone communications are limited.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

Due to the probable occurrence of Snowy plovers and/or 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.

