

County: **Santa Barbara**
USGS Quad: **Gaviota**

Thomas Guide Location
365 H x 7
NOAA Chart: **18721**

Latitude N Longitude W
34.471667 120.226667

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION I. This site is located in the Gaviota State Park. It is bounded on the west by the Gaviota pier and on the east by the coastal cliffs. The site extends upstream (north) to the entry road crossing just north of the entry kiosk. Gaviota Creek is the largest perennial creek (most years) in the area and is open to the ocean most of the year. There is a modest sized fresh water and coastal salt marsh near the creek mouth. Beaches are typically fine to medium-grained sand in the summer and mixed sand-gravel in winter. The state beach is a popular recreational area (beach use and fishing from pier) especially in summer.

Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area is included in this site.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Whenever the creek mouth is open (much of the year, depending on rainfall) wetland biota, including Southern Steelhead, Tidewater goby, red-legged frog, arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtle, two-striped gartersnake, coast range newt, waterfowl, and saltwater and freshwater marsh habitats are at risk.

Rest of the year for seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl, harbor seals, and Calif sea lions, also eel grass beds in nearshore area.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Steelhead movement occurs in this area Dec thru March. Tidewater gobies nest April thru June. Southwestern pond turtles, newts and red-legged frogs overwinter on or near the banks and upland areas along the creek. Amphibian eggs and tadpoles occur (Dec - Sep) and could be injured by response.

Brown pelicans, Gulls, Terns and other seabirds and waterfowl.

Harbor seals and Calif sea lions. Southern sea otters have been known to move through the nearshore area. Terrestrial - Coast range newt, Two-striped garter snake, and Southwestern pond turtles, red-legged frogs (critical habtiat).

Steelhead trout (Dec-May), Tidewater goby (critical habitat), Arroyo chub.

Gaviota tarplant has been observed (critical habitat)

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710 and 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		Shell Pipeline - Alcatraz & Cementerio Creeks	(805) 567-1126
T	Channel Coast Distict	California State Parks	(805) 585-1850
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
E	Freeport-McMoRan Cooper and Gold	Emergency Number	(805) 739-9111
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
T	Mary Larson Fisheries Biologist	CDFW - (Steelhead)	(562) 537-8624
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation Manager	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969
T	Steve Wertz Senior Environmental Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

References: 1. "CA Coastal Resource Guide" and "CA Coastal Access Guide" by The CA Coastal Commission. 2. "Inventory of Coastal Wetlands in Santa Barbara County". Interim Report by: R. Ambrose. 1993. 3. "Status of Fishes of Southern CA with Recommendations for Preserves to Maintain Their Existence". By: Camm Swift, T. Haglund, M. Ruiz. 1990. 4. Proposed "Western Snowy Plover Critical Habitat". By: USFWS - Ventura Field Office. 5. "Coastal Inlet Protection Strategies for Oil Spill Response - Volume 1." Research Planning Inc. 1993.

4-601 -A Site Strategy - Gaviota Creek

County and Thomas Guide Location

365 H x 7 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART

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4-601 -A

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Longitude W

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

Primary spill threats from inland and marine sources. The primary objectives are to minimize oiling of stream and lagoon, pre-clean debris, and clean oil from shorelines. The lagoon and stream provide habitat for both sensitive and T/E species (fishes, amphibians, reptiles) which can be killed or 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.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

A. 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.

B. Safety Considerations- High winds and large surf are common, especially during winter. 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

Two pipelines (a 24-inch oil line and a 20-inch natural gas line) transit the area north of the RR track. They run 18 miles from the Jalama coast to the Plains Exploration plant near Gaviota. The creek enters the ocean through a culvert which runs under the railroad track earth fill creek crossing.

Strategy 4-601.1 Objective: Berming - Prevent oil from contaminating the inlet when it is subject to tidal influence, low flows are present, and/or wave washover could occur if berm materials are present.

Berming - First, consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Build a 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 washover. If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor berm and associated features to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-601.2 Objective: Booming - Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet entrance to protect sensitive species and habitats when suitable berm building materials are unavailable, water flows are too great, or water depths are too great for berming.

Booming - Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration which forms an oil collection pocket which can be adjusted to 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 skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms at least 2 x per day to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-601.3 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 unoled 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	type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-601.1		400		400	4				52		1 Front End Loader, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 20 Sand Bags, 15 Stakes (metal), 1 Stake Driver, 10ft Construction Fencing, 1 Hand Tools	5	2
4-601.2		400		400	8				4		1 Skiff, 1 Skimmer, 1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank OR Vacuum Truck	5	2
4-601.3									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.)

Access (Gaviota creek): from Hwy. 101 (approx. 30 miles north of Santa Barbara), take Gaviota State Park exit. Entrance road to park may be flooded during heavy rains. Good vehicular access to beach and creek mouth from parking area.

Gated entrance after hours - contact state parks or local DFW wardens.

Access (Alcatraz and Cementario Creeks): access for Freeport-McMoRan Cooper and Gold and Shell Pipeline (formerly

Texaco) facilities at Alcatraz and Cementario Creeks is off US 101 at Mariposa Reina. The Freeport-McMoRan Cooper and Gold facility is north (landward) of the freeway and the Shell Pipeline facility is on the south (seaward) side of the freeway.

LAND ACCESS: Access to this site is controlled by California State Parks. Call the Channel Coast District Office at 805-585-1850 (between 0800 -1700). To notify State Parks of the need to respond in this area after hours, call 916-358-1300 (24 hour number).

WATER LOGISTICS: Kelp beds and rocks in nearshore waters
Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Santa Barbara Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor for full service berthing, launching and fueling. Response vessels could be loaded and small boats can be launched at Gaviota Pier with permission from State Beaches and Parks. Larger vessels can be loaded at Ellwood Pier with permission from Venoco and at Goleta Pier with permission from Santa Barbara County Parks.

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

Pre-staged equipment: Clean Seas trailer (boom, etc) at Chevron Pipeline - Gaviota. Other equipment: Heavy equipment may be available from Hollister Ranch or from Chevron Pipeline - Gaviota Facility. Clean Seas Yard (Carpinteria) is approx. 45 miles east. County Fire Dept has a foam line next to Gaviota Pier.

Staging area: Gaviota State Beach parking lot; rest rooms available.

Potential command post sites: Field Command Post might be established at the State Beach with consent of Park Department. For larger needs consider various oil facilities in the area. Santa Barbara is approx. 30 miles east via highway 101.

Closest airport is in Santa Barbara.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

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.

1. Federal and State Emergency permits may be required as listed in ACP.
2. Construction of dikes or containment basins may require an emergency coastal development permit from the California Coastal Commission. Before beginning construction dikes or basins, please contact the Coastal Commission Oil Spill Program at 415-904-5285, 415-201-5792 for emergency permit information.
3. All cleanup operations in the general area should be conducted with the advice and cooperation of DFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Parks personnel, and California Coastal Commission.
4. Air craft Restrictions: None known.
5. MONITOR STATUS OF CREEK MOUTH.
6. HIGH USE RECREATIONAL AREAS, ESPECIALLY DURING SUMMER.
7. KNOWN OIL PIPELINES: Chevron pipeline crosses creek approx. 1 mile inland, others are undetermined at this time.
8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: ALONG THE TERRACED BLUFFS WEST OF CREEK.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX (ESI) MAPS: SOUTHERN CALIF ATLAS. RPI

