

County: **Santa Barbara**
 USGS Quad: **Tajiguas**

Thomas Guide Location
 981 D x 5
 NOAA Chart: **18721**

Latitude N Longitude W
 34.461667 120.068333

Last Page Update : 11/17/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION J. Refugio beach state park covers 2.7 linear miles of shoreline in the vicinity of the creek mouth. The boundaries of the site on the beach extend east to west the width of the channel. For a marine spill the risk area extends upstream to the upper reaches of tidal influence. For inland spill the risk extends upstream of Highway 101 to the oil pipeline crossing of the watershed Refugio creek mouth, lagoon and marsh. To the east and west of the creek mouth are extensive fine to medium-grained sand beaches in summer, changing to mixed sand and gravel in winter.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Tidewater Gobies, federally listed species, are found in the estuary year round. Whenever the creek mouth is open (most likely from late fall through early summer, depending on rainfall) wetland biota are at risk. Rest of the year for bird populations. Stream supports red-legged frogs, southwestern pond turtles, two striped gartersnakes. There is evidence of deer, bear, and mountain lions in the upper portions of the watershed above the facility.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Intermittant coastal wetland habitat. Estuary lagoon and riparian habitat in upstream areas.

Terns, Shorebirds, and Waterfowl.

Southern sea otters have been known to move through the area.

Southwestern pond turtle, Two-stripe garter snake, red-legged frog.

Tidewater goby (all year), Surfperch, Kelp bass.

Extensive eelgrass bed.

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
O	Central Control Plant Operations (24hr)	Exxon Mobil	(805) 961-4055
T	Channel Coast District	California State Parks	(805) 585-1850
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 402-6612
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

1. RPI-ESI MAPS SOUTHERN CALIF ATLAS
2. COASTAL INLET PROTECTION FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE (DFG, MSRC)
3. INVENTORY OF COASTAL WETLANDS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - INTERIM REPORT.-- R. AMBROSE. 1993.

4-610 -A Site Strategy - Refugio Creek

County and Thomas Guide Location

981 D x 5 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART

18721

4-610 -A

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Last Page Update : 12/18/2014

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- 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

Strategy 4-610.1 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 4-610.2 Objective: Filter Barrier - Minimize oil contamination in unoiled areas using a filter barrier

Filter Barrier - Construct a filter barrier across the inlet or at the high tide berm of the estuary to catch oil from the ocean from wave wash-over. Use this method when the inlet is narrow, water flows are low, the bottom can receive and hold metal stakes and the spill is heavy oil. Monitor the barrier constantly and replace pompoms as necessary to maintain effectiveness. Do not use in high surf conditions.

Strategy 4-610.3 Objective: Sandbag Dams - Build a sandbag dam to prevent oil from polluting unoiled areas.

Sandbag Dams - Build a sandbag exclusion/containment dam using onsite materials or imported materials as directed by DFG biologist. Use clean low silt content sand. If using onsite materials obtain only from unvegetated areas. Install underflow pipes and/or a spillway to regulate water flows as conditions dictate. Closely regulate water levels to reduce 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.

Strategy 4-610.4 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 type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-610.1		400		400	2				2 1 waste bin (20 yd), 1 portable oil storage tank or vacuum truck	5	2
4-610.2			360 snar						482 150 feet construction fencing, 20 stakes (metal), 1 stake driver, 1 hand tool	5	2
4-610.3				240					229 200 Sand Bags, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 1 Hand Tools, 24 Stakes	5	2
4-610.4									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.)

From US 101 (West of Santa Barbara) exit at Refugio Beach State Park. Gaviota State Beach (approximately 10 miles North on 101).

Note: State Parks must be contacted for after hours access, call (805) 968-1711 or 3294.

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:

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:

Excellent access for excavating equipment from large parking lot; good staging area.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

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.

