

**4-115-A Site Summary - Villa Creek and Beach****4-115-A****County :** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment :** SL - D - S 02**NOAA Chart :** 18703**Map Book :** 324 K-9**Decimal Degrees** 35.46027 -120.97022**Site Description:**

Villa Creek inlet is small in size, is within the Estero Bluffs State Park (State Park goes from Villa Creek south to N. Ocean Blvd. in northern Cayucos), is subject to ephemeral flow conditions, and has a minor marsh behind the beach. Upper Creek area is vegetated with Pickle weed and Saltgrass. It is bordered by rocky intertidal habitat to the north, and by sandy beach to the south with coastal terrace grasslands above. Also, note just north of Villa Creek inlet is the Cayucos Abalone Farm, aquiculture facility economic site with a water intake. Creek critical habitat for tidewater goby and steelhead. Western pond turtles present in creek. Shorebirds and seabirds including brown pelicans, willets, grebes, loons are present year-round. Beach critical habitat for western snowy plovers. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Southern sea otters common offshore.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

2A Exposed wave-cut platforms in bedrock, mud, or clay

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT	Year-round
Fish	tidewater goby	FE	Year-round
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov
Reptiles	western pond turtle	SSC	Year-round

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-2474
C	/	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
O	Brian Hatfield/Marine Mammal Expert	US Geological Survey, Biological Division	(805) 927-3893
T	Mary Larson/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(562) 537-8624
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
T	Rick Bush/Fisheries Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3562
T	Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4023
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - July; steelhead peak spawning March - July. Leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November. Western snowy plovers nest March - September; refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in riparian/wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland/riparian areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments. If creek conditions allow, boom/fencing deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across creek to position the boom/fencing to reduce disturbance. Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies (endangered) especially April - July, goby nesting season. Steelhead (critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush for gobies. Streamside Vegetation - Minimize disturbance to streamside vegetation. Wave washover - May carry oil over natural berm into the lagoon during extreme onshore and tidal conditions. Oil Burial - Wind drift and sand may bury beached oil. Black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov. Western snowy plover (threatened, designated critical habitat) nests March - September; refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Estero Bluffs State Park property. Abalone Farm water intake just north of creek, see Economic Site Information.

**Site Strategies:**

**Strategy: 4-115.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open block entrance with short skirted containment boom (swamp boom) at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. 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 or anchors on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Consider booming shorelines of inlet to prevent oiling. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check boom for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp			300	feet	
Anchor				2		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		

**Strategy: 4-115.2 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

**Strategy:** When creek mouth is closed install 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 fence barrier for exclusion/containment. Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 30 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, and the spill consists of heavy oil. If creek conditions allow, filter fence deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position fencing (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Maintenance/monitoring of filter fencing necessary.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing			300	feet	
stakes				30		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-115.3 Objective:** Build Berm

**Strategy:** When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block creek entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm, and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Cover berm with plastic sheeting to minimize erosion; and consider backing berm with 10" swamp boom and/or sorbent boom. To create protective berm, take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. Manual building of berm preferred over heavy equipment even when heavy equipment can access site. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check for berm effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
Piping						

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. 1/2 mile south of Villa Creek is turnout with hiking trail to beach and creek mouth (Villa Creek Bridge post mile marker is 40.29). From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S) to Villa Creek.

**Land Access:** Foot access only.

**On-Water Limitations:** Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch approx. 15 miles south.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging area: Turnout 1/2 mile south of creek. Command Post: Cayucos Veteran's Memorial Building, Cayucos Dr. at North Ocean Ave. (805) 995-1228 (or county OES for alternate number), approx. 5 miles South. U.S. Coast Guard office Morro Bay, approx. 15 miles south. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 40 min south, Paso Robles airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

**Communications Problems:** None.

**Additional Operational Comments:**

