

4-145-A Site Summary - Morro Strand State Beach (Pismo Clam Preserve)**4-145-A****County :** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment :** SL - E - S 003**NOAA Chart :** 18703**Map Book :** 611 D-5**Decimal Degrees** 35.37267 -120.86471**Site Description:**

Morro Strand Beach south, Pismo Clam Preserve (Dept. of Fish and Wildlife designation). Pismo clams are present year-round. Designated critical habitat for western snowy plovers. From just north of Morro Rock to Azure Street is designated Pismo Clam Preserve area. The southern portion of this Preserve is within the City's jurisdiction (Morro Bay Harbor Department) and the northern section of the Preserve is within Morro Strand State Beach. Fine to medium grained sandy beach just north of Morro Rock. Shorebirds and seabirds are present year-round, are of concern, and include brown pelicans, willets, sanderlings, and curlews. Southern sea otters common offshore. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles offshore.

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

| | Resource Name | Status | Presence |
|---------------|------------------------|--------|------------|
| Birds | Western snowy plover | FT | Year-round |
| Invertebrates | Pismo clams | | Year-round |
| Mammals | Southern sea otter | FT, SP | Year-round |
| Reptiles | leatherback sea turtle | FE | Aug - Nov |

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 | Eric Wilkins/Senior Environmental Scientist | California Department of Fish & Wildlife, SLO | (805) 594-6172 |
| O | Eric Endersby/Harbor Manager | Morro Bay Harbor Department | (805) 772-6254 |
| O | Brian Hatfield/Marine Mammal Expert | US Geological Survey, Biological Division | (805) 927-3893 |
| T | SURCOM (24-hr)/ | California State Parks (Dispatch) | (951) 443-2969 |
| T | Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service | (562) 506-4315 |
| 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:

Western snowy plover nest in the foredunes 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. Leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed Aug. - Nov; California grunion peak spawning March - June.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Western snowy plovers nest on this beach March - September, designated critical habitat; 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. Dept. Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, and State Dept. of Parks and Rec. should be consulted before staging motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted. The southern portion of this beach, from Morro Rock north to Morro creek, Morro Rock City Beach, is owned and managed by the City of Morro Bay. North of Morro Creek beach is owned and managed by State Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

Hazard and Restrictions:**Site Strategies:**

Strategy: 4-145.1 Objective: No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

Strategy: 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.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update**Logistics:**

Directions: From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N (Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo), to Morro Bay Blvd. Exit, go west to Embarcadero St. which turns into Coleman Dr., turn into Coleman Park parking area. Site is beach just north of Morro Rock. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S), follow directions as above.

Land Access: Vehicles/heavy equipment beach access from Coleman Park.

On-Water Limitations: Morro Bay boat launch approx. 1 mile south.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging area: Coleman Park parking area. Command Post: U.S. Coast Guard offices in Morro Bay or Harbor Dept. office. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 30 min. inland.

Communications Problems: None.

Additional Operational Comments:

