

County : San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment :** SL - J - S 003**NOAA Chart :** 18700**Map Book :** 754**Decimal Degrees** 35.00198 -120.64021**Site Description:**

Fine to medium grained sandy beach. This is part of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. Species of concern are present year round. Beach critical habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns; just offshore designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Shorebirds include western gulls, willets, sandpipers, sea birds include brown pelicans, pelagic cormorants, grebes, loons, scoters, common murre. Southern sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions common offshore. Kelp beds offshore. Pismo clams found on this beach. Surf thistle, crisp monardella, and la graciosa thistle are protected dune plants in this area.

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
Birds	California least tern	SE	Apr - Sep
Invertebrates	Pismo clams		Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round
Plants	surf thistle		Year-round
Plants	crisp monardella		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	Brian Hatfield/Marine Mammal Expert	US Geological Survey, Biological Division	(805) 927-3893
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 plovers nest March - September; California least terns nest April -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 August - November. Sea otters pup year-round.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Beach is designated critical habitat for snowy plovers and least terns; 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.

Hazard and Restrictions:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Guadalupe-Nipomo Wildlife Refuge area; contact Refuge Manager Deborah Kirkland Office: (805) 644-5185 ext. 291; Cell: (805) 451-0874 for access issues.

Site Strategies:

Strategy: 4-440.1 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

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Logistics:

Directions: From the south: Hwy 101 north to Grand Ave exit, go west approximately 3 miles to Pacific Blvd, go south approximately 1 mile to Pier Ave., turn right to south beach access. Drive south on beach, cross Arroyo Grande Creek. Continue to State Beach fence. Fence can be passed at low tide and the National Wildlife Refuge and Pismo-Oceano Beach Clam Preserve is in between Oso Flaco Creek and the Guadalupe oil field, approx. 3.5 miles further down beach. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Grand Ave. exit in Arroyo Grande, turn right (west) approx. 3 miles to Pacific Blvd. (Hwy 1), turn left (south) approx. 1 mile to Pier Ave., turn right onto Pier Ave. to southern beach access (Grand Ave. is northern beach access). Can drive on the beach in this location. Drive south on beach, cross Arroyo Grande Creek. Continue to State Beach fence. Fence can be passed at low tide and the National Wildlife Refuge and Pismo-Oceano Beach Clam Preserve is in between Oso Flaco Creek and the Guadalupe oil field, approx. 3.5 miles further down beach. Can also access this beach off of Oso Flaco Lake Road with ATV's and permission/access assistance by USFWS Refuge staff.

Land Access: 4WD, thru Pismo Beach ORVRA then drive south approx. 4 miles on beach.

On-Water Limitations: Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis Harbor is Approx. 30 miles north.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging Area: Guadalupe Oil Field. Parking area at Oso Flaco Lake. Pismo Beach parking lot at Pier Ave. Command Post: State Parks Ranger Station, 928 Pacific Blvd (HWY 1; approx. 1/2 mi north of Pier Ave; between Pier Ave and Grand Ave), Oceano, 805-473-7220 State Parks office in Pismo. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo. Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport is approx. 30 min. north. Oceano Airport for small planes is approx. 10 miles north. Santa Maria Airport approx. 15 miles southeast.

Communications Problems: None.

