

**4-560-A Site Summary - Point Pedernales & Point Arguello****4-560-A**

**County :** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment :** SB - E - S03 SB - E - S04 SB - E - S05 SB - E - S06  
 SB - E - S07 SB - E - S08 SB - E - S09

**NOAA Chart :** 18700**Map Book :** 365 C x 4-5**Decimal Degrees :** 34.5842 -120.6453**Site Description:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). This site extends from the Point Pedernales area to the "boat house", approximately 2 miles SSE of Rocky Point. The area is a combination of exposed rocky cliffs, wave-cut platforms, fine to medium-grained sand beaches, mixed sand and gravel beaches, many of these being pocket beaches. This is a high energy, west facing coastal segment, with numerous offshore wash rocks. Vandenberg State Marine Reserve is included in this site. This site is associated with the following BLM California Coastal National Monument site: Destroyer Rock. This rock is west of Point Pedernales. It potentially has ash storm-petrel nesting. Harbor seal pupping and breeding (Dec-May) occurs at this site. Seabird nesting occurs during the spring and summer. All year for a small group of sea otters in the Point Pedernales area. Rich rocky intertidal biota offshore including red sea urchins, spiny lobster and rockfish.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

3B Scarps and steep slopes in sand

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

1A Exposed Rocky Shore

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle critical habitat		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
E	John Hodge/Associate Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management, Coastal Natl. Monum	(661) 301-1659
E	/Law Enforcement Desk (24hr)	Vandenberg Air Force Base	(805) 606-3911
E	Wayne Moses/Chief Conservation Officer	Vandenberg Air Force Base	(805) 606-6804
T	Becky Ota/Marine Protected Areas	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine	(562) 343-3808
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
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:**

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Inshore waters and shorelines contain sensitive habitat for invertebrates, birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals which can be injured or killed by oil. Because there are no practicable onshore response strategies for protecting these resources and the shorelines are virtually inaccessible except by foot traffic, landing craft or helicopter, it is best to collect and/or disperse oil offshore, before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

**Site Strategies:**

**Strategy: 4-560.1 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

**Strategy:** 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 oiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Misc.	Trash Bags					
Staff				5		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** Access to the shoreline is available at the south end of site ("boat house"), but is very limited elsewhere.

**Land Access:** This site is located on Vandenberg Airforce Base. Access to beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Air Force Base. For access authorization to the air base roadways, lands and shorelines responders must call the Law Enforcement Desk at 805-606-3911 and the Vandenberg Conservation Office at 805-606-6804. An escort may be required in some locations.

**On-Water Limitations:** Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading occur at the "Boat House" in the vicinity of Rocky Pt. just south of Pt Arguello. These facilities could be utilized with permission from VAFB. Area is rocky.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** An Old Coast Guard Building located on Bluffs above boat dock may provide a field command post.

**Communications Problems:** Cell phone communications are limited.

**Additional Operational Comments:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and VAFB must be consulted before the staging of motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted.

