

**4-601-A Site Summary - Gaviota Creek****4-601-A****County :** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment :** SB - I - S01**NOAA Chart :** 18721**Map Book :** 365 H x 7**Decimal Degrees :** 34.4705 -120.227**Site Description:**

This site is located in Gaviota State Park. It is bounded on the west by the Gaviota pier and on the east by the coastal cliffs. The site extends upstream (north) to the entry road crossing just north of the entry kiosk. Gaviota Creek is the largest perennial creek in the area and is open to the ocean most of the year. There is a modest sized freshwater and coastal salt marsh near the creek mouth. Beaches are typically fine to medium-grained sand in the summer and mixed sand-gravel in winter. The state beach is a popular recreational area (beach use and fishing from the pier) especially in summer. Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area is included at this site. Numerous waterfowl, seabirds (including brown pelicans), shorebirds, harbor seals and California sea lions are present. Extensive eel grass beds are at this site. Arroyo chub, two-striped garter snake and coast-range newt may be present.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

9B Vegetated low banks

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT	Year-round
Fish	steelhead - Southern California	FE	Year-round
Fish	tidewater goby	FE	Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Plants	Gaviota tarplant	FE, SE	Year-round
Reptiles	southwestern 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
E	/Emergency	Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas	(805) 739-9111
T	Mary Larson/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(562) 537-8624
T	Becky Ota/Marine Conservation Manager	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine	(562) 343-3808
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Rick Bush/Fisheries Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3562
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:**

Steelhead movement occurs in the creek December thru May.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

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. Two pipelines (a 24-inch oil line and a 20-inch natural gas line) transit the area north of the RR track. They run 18 miles from the Jalama coast to the the Gaviota terminal.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

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: 4-601.1 Objective:** Exclude Oil

*Strategy:* Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration that forms an adjustable oil collection pocket that can 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 recoverable oil on-water, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms as needed to maintain effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			400	feet	
Boom	Sorbent			400	feet	
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Staff				5		
Anchor				8		

**Strategy: 4-601.2 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 unoled 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 this site from Hwy. 101 (approx. 30 miles north of Santa Barbara) at Gaviota State Park. Good vehicular access to beach and creek mouth from the parking area.

*Land Access:* Access to this site is controlled by California State Parks. Call Surcom at (951) 443-2969.

*On-Water Limitations:* Santa Barbara Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor for full service berthing, launching and fueling.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging area: Gaviota State Beach parking lot; rest rooms available. Potential command post sites: Field Command Post might be established at the State Beach with consent of Park Department.

*Communications Problems:* none

*Additional Operational Comments:* SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Due to the probable occurrence of western snowy plovers and/or California 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. Protect the Marine Protected Area (MPA) boundaries.

