

4-010-A Site Summary - Arroyo Hondo Creek Beach**4-010-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - A - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 324 E-4**Decimal Degrees:** 35.74977 -121.31564**Site Description:**

Sandy beach fronting Arroyo Hondo Creek, north of Breaker Point and south of Ragged Point. Hearst San Simeon State Park property, and within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Shorebirds include western snowy plovers, western gulls, willets, sandpipers, black oyster catchers (on rocky intertidal); sea birds include brown pelicans, pelagic cormorants, grebes, loons, scoters, common murre. Sea otters and kelp beds common offshore. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat. Western snowy plovers utilize this beach.

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

| | Resource Name | Status | Presence | Sensitivity |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Birds | Western snowy plover | FT, SSC | Year-round | |
| Birds | brown pelican | FP, SP | Year-round | |
| Invertebrates | black abalone | FE | 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 Information Center | (805) 682-4711 |
| C | /Coordinator | Native American Heritage Commission | (916) 373-3710 |
| T | SURCOM (24-hr)/ | California State Parks (Dispatch) | (951) 443-2969 |
| T | /Emergency Responder, 24-hr | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary | (831) 236-6797 |
| 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 | /Spill Response Coordinator | 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:

Southern sea otters pup January - March; leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November. Western snowy plovers nest March - September and overwinter rest of year on this beach. 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:

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. Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Site is within Monterey Bay National Marine sanctuary and the Sea Otter Game Refuge.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 4-010.1 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 north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N) Follow Hwy 1 N for approx. 30 miles to Arroyo Hondo Creek. Turn out 4/10 mile south of San Carpoforo Creek Bridge. Park at turnout and follow creek (trail) to beach. From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo, continue as above.

Land Access: Foot access to beach (fairly dangerous).

On-Water Limitations: Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp approx. 40 miles south.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging area: Vista turnouts along Hwy 1. Command Post: USGS Pierdas Blancas Lighthouse; State Parks office at Hearst Castle; hotels in San Simeon. Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport, approx. 1 hour 15 min south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 1 hour inland. There is private landing strip for small planes north of Hearst castle Visitor's center, approx. 20 min. south.

Communications Problems: None.

Additional Operational Comments:

