

**County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - E - S002**NOAA Chart:** 18703**Map Book:** 591 D-7**Decimal Degrees:** 35.41277 -120.87411**Site Description:**

Species of concern are present year round. Creek critical habitat for steelhead and tidewater goby. Western pond turtles also in this creek. Beach critical habitat for western snowy plovers. Creek mouth empties just seaward of Chevron Estero Marine Terminal (no longer active but there are pipelines (inactive) that run from the facility, out onto the beach next to Toro Creek and out into the ocean). Inland, creek runs through terminal and under Hwy 1, then flows onto beach. Beach fronting creek is highly utilized for recreational purposes including fishing and surfing. To the north and south are State Beaches but beach fronting Toro Creek is private property. Shorebirds include brown pelicans, marbled godwits, willets, sandpipers, gulls, sandpipers, black oyster catchers (on rocky intertidal); seabirds include brown pelicans, pelagic cormorants, grebes, loons, scoters, common murre. Kelp beds offshore. Southern sea otters can be found offshore. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles offshore.

**Resources at Risk:**

*ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches  
10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Reptiles	Western pond turtle	SSC	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
O	John Amato/Manager	Chevron Corporation	(714) 453-7391
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
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	/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:**

Tidewater gobies peak nesting in estuary sediments April - July; steelhead peak spawning March - July. Western snowy plovers 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 August - November.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in riparian/wetland areas when possible. Steelhead designated critical habitat upstream. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland/riparian areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments. If creek conditions allow, boom/fencing deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across creek to position the boom/fencing to reduce disturbance. Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies (endangered) especially April - July, goby nesting season and steelhead peak spawning March - July. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush for gobies. 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; beach is designated critical habitat for snowy plovers. Minimize mechanical and human activities in vegetated dune habitat. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Chevron pipelines idle; contact Chevron for location of pipelines before using/staging heavy equipment on beach. Mobil pipelines (carry cutter stock and San Joaquin Valley crude oil) crosses Toro Creek approx. 1 mile inland.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II****Strategy: 4-135.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open block entrance with short skirted containment boom (swamp boom) at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences; place above high tide line. If creek conditions allow, boom deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position the boom (and fence posts or anchors on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check boom for effectiveness. Boom can be placed manually without boats. Consider anchoring boom in riprap and/or using Hwy 1 bridge abutment. Consider lining riprap, underneath Hwy bridge, with boom.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			300	feet	
Misc.	Stakes			5		
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		
skimmer				1		

**Strategy: 4-135.2 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is closed install excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal washover. When creek mouth is open use a filter fence barrier for exclusion/containment. Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 30 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, and the spill consists of heavy oil. If creek conditions allow, filter fence deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position fencing (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Maintenance/monitoring of filter fencing necessary.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing			300	feet	
skimmer				1		
stakes				30		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					

**Strategy: 4-135.3 Objective:** Build Berm

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block creek entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm, and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Cover berm with plastic sheeting to minimize erosion; and consider backing berm with 10" swamp boom and/or sorbent boom. To create protective berm, take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. Manual building of berm preferred over heavy equipment even when heavy equipment can access site. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check for berm effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Sandbags						
skimmer				1		
Piping						
Staff				6		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. Creek is across from Chevron Estero Bay Marine Terminal, 4000 Hwy 1, approx. 5 miles north of Morro Bay. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to 46 W to Hwy 1 S). Follow as above.

*Land Access:* Foot access through gate.

*On-Water Limitations:* Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp approx. 5 miles south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging Area: Chevron Estero Bay Marine Terminal across street. Command Post: U.S. Coast Guard office in Morro Bay, approx. 5 miles south. Airports: SLO County Airport approx. 40 minutes south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min. inland.

*Communications Problems:* None.

*Additional Operational Comments:*



