

**County:** Ventura**ACP Division/Segment:** VN - E - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18725(a)**Map Book:** 521 G-H x 2-4**Decimal Degrees:** 34.21986 -119.25778**Site Description:**

McGrath State Beach from south of the Santa Clara river mouth to the southern boundary of McGrath lake. This is a wide fine to medium-grained sand beach that is backed by coastal dunes and is approximately 1.5 miles long. McGrath lake is a natural coastal dune lake which now serves as an agricultural drainage lake that is very rarely open to the ocean. Water is pumped out of the lake to a "slough" area near the beach to maintain lake level and avoid flooding. This state beach is a high use recreational area (camping, water sports, etc).

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 10B Freshwater marshes

9B Vegetated low banks

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr-Sept	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, 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	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/	South Central Coast Information Center	(657) 278-5395
E	Jeff MacDonald/Supervisor	Cal-NRG	(805) 393-2595
E	/	Ventura County, Watershed Protection District	(805) 654-2001
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	/Ranger Officer	California State Parks, Ventura	(805) 648-4127
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:**

There is an active oil field adjacent to the lake.

Western snowy plovers nest from Mar-Sep.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Primary spill threats from inland and marine sources. The best response options for protecting this shoreline are to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore areas before it reaches inshore areas and to pre-clean debris from beaches. The dunes and upper beaches provide critical nesting habitat for Threatened/Endangered birds. These animals can be killed and habitat can be damaged by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand, and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found in this area. Beware of people and animals on the beach, pedestrians, waves, slips, trips and falls, and water hazards. Safe access may be dependent on tide and surf. Sand may be soft so lower tire pressure on all vehicles.

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

**Strategy: 4-761.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART

**Strategy:** There are no feasible onshore protection strategies for this area. Attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches the shoreline.

Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

**Directions:** Going southbound US 101, exit Seaward Ave #68, turn left on Harbor Blvd for 3.2 mi. McGrath State Beach is directly off of Harbor Blvd on the right. Going northbound US 101, exit Seaward Ave #68, turn left onto Seaward Ave from the off-ramp, turn left on E Harbor Blvd for 2.9 mi. McGrath State Beach is directly off of Harbor Blvd on the right.

**Land Access:** Access to this site is controlled by California State Parks.

**On-Water Limitations:** Ventura Harbor is a full service civilian harbor for berthing, launching, and fueling.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Equipment: MSRC yard in Carpinteria. Staging area: McGrath State Beach has restrooms, electricity, water, and parking, however, no other facilities occur. Potential command post sites: TBD Closest airport is in Oxnard

**Communications Problems:** NA

**Additional Operational Comments:** Due to the probable occurrence of Snowy plovers and/or 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.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-761 Name: McGrath State Beach & McGrath Lake

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 12/5/2023

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**