

County: San Diego**ACP Division/Segment:** SD - B - S008**NOAA Chart:** 18774**Map Book:** 1085 F4**Decimal Degrees:** 33.23003 -117.41587**Site Description:**

This site is approximately 3000 feet wide at the entrance. The Santa Margarita River is a significant river drainage in San Diego County. The status of the mouth opening is dependant on several variables. If rainfall has occurred recently, the river mouth is likely to be open. During summer and autumn dry months, ocean driven longshore sediment movements may close the mouth with a sand berm. A large tidal exchange can occur when the river mouth is open. Water depth in the river channel can vary from several inches to several feet, with typical depths of less than three feet at low tide. Even though the summer river flow can be >500 feet wide, there is plenty of sediment available on the beach for the construction of a sand berm. An inland geographic response plan is also available for Santa Margarita River on the OSPR website <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/Contingency>.

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 4 Coarse-grained sand beaches**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Feb - Sep	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	Belding's savannah sparrow	SE	Year-round	
Birds	Light-footed Ridgway's rail	FE, SE	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	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	South Coastal Information Center	(619) 594-5682
E	/Commanding Officer (24hr)	MCB Camp Pendleton Command Center	(760) 725-5061
T	/Resource Management Branch	MCB Camp Pendleton Environmental Security	(760) 725-4637
T	/Spill Prevention & Planning Section	MCB Camp Pendleton Environmental Security	(760) 763-1120
T	/Natural Resource Management Specialist	National Marine Fisheries Service, Steelhead	(909) 235-9905
T	/Spill Coordinator (24hr)	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Office	(760) 607-9768

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

Additional Site Summary Comments:

Response efforts at this site will require coordination with the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The base routinely conducts amphibious training and other maritime operations along the beachfront. Early coordination to avoid conflict between responders and military OPS is critical. Gate access and guided travel within Camp Pendleton work sites should be coordinated to help avoid extensive delays clearing the gate security office, and to speed up response time to the remote locations along this relatively undeveloped coastline.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Strategically Dynamic: Assess current site conditions before selecting a response strategy or ordering response equipment. Refer to ACP Site 6-000-A for important information on beach nesting birds that use this site. Be prepared to use site monitors to evaluate and minimize any potential negative effects (especially to listed species), that could result from cleanup and response activities at this site.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Use caution when responding on USMCB Camp Pendleton beaches.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: V****Strategy: 6-145.1 Objective:** Build Berm

Strategy: Close the river mouth to tidal flow by constructing a sand berm using borrowed sand from the lower beach face. Minimize sand relocation from the upper beach face.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Heavy Equipment	Front Loader			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			1		

Strategy: 6-145.2 Objective: Exclude Oil

Strategy: Deploy harbor boom across the river channel to bring oil to collection points near the foot of the northbound I-5 bridge.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor Boom			750	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i> <i>Last Test:</i> 10/4/2021
Vessel	Boom Boat or Skiff			2		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			8		

Strategy: 6-145.3 Objective: Erect Filter Fence

Strategy: Construct a filter fence across the river mouth to prevent oil from entering the wetland on high tide. This strategy will only be successful when river flows are low.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Fencing			400	feet	
Staff	Staff to Deploy			6		

Strategy: 6-145.4 Objective: Offshore collection and containment

Strategy: Deploy a towed boom array using OSRO vessels and vessels of opportunity to maximize floating oil collection and containment. Effective offshore strategies will reduce the volume of oil in the environment, mitigating potential shoreline impacts.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Ocean Boom	42 inch		800	feet	
Vessel	Boom Boat			2		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			6		

Logistics:

Directions: Enter Camp Pendleton at the main gate in Oceanside. Take Vandergrift Road to Stuart Mesa Road and turn left. Take Stuart Mesa Road to the first left turn onto the dirt road immediately past the river bridge crossing. Directly beneath the I-5 freeway bridge a small boat ramp is available to launch skiffs and booming equipment. Continue along this dirt road which skirts the perimeter of the agriculture field about one-half mile to a beach access road. The Santa Margarita River mouth is about one-quarter mile south. Four wheel drive vehicles are strongly recommended on this beach. This river mouth is approximately 500 feet wide at the entrance.

Land Access: All access is available. Use 4-wheel drive vehicles on the beach. Response vehicles should approach the site

using the wet sand edge along the beach face to minimize potential disturbances to beach nesting bird habitat.

On-Water Limitations: Water depth near the river mouth will vary from several inches to several feet, with deeper pools upstream. Access to the river is by hand launched skiffs at the foot of the northbound I-5 bridge.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging is limited to the bluff area ~0.5 mile north of river mouth, or at the beach front parking lot on the south side of river mouth. Staging anywhere near the mouth of the Santa Margarita River should be avoided when California least terns are nesting on the beach.

Communications Problems: None.

Additional Operational Comments: Fencing in the area is to exclude people from California least tern habitat. Stay out.

