

6-275-A Site Summary - Los Peñasquitos Lagoon**6-275-A****County:** San Diego**ACP Division/Segment:** SD - D - S008**NOAA Chart:** 18765**Map Book:** 1207 G1**Decimal Degrees:** 32.93335 -117.26087**Site Description:**

Los Peñasquitos Lagoon is actually more of a large coastal estuary than a lagoon, as most of the habitat in the area is marshland. The lagoon is part of the Los Peñasquitos Marsh Natural Preserve which is operated by California State Parks. The wetland-lagoon habitat covers several hundred acres and provides valuable wildlife habitat in the middle of the growing San Diego metropolis. The lagoon has two primary tidal channels that can be too deep to cross on foot at medium tide heights. The channels become braided and meandering, branching into many shallow channels that can extend tidal influence approximately 1.5 miles inland from the lagoon mouth. The lagoon supports a large expanse of pickleweed and cordgrass marshland that provides habitat for many sensitive species year-round.

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

8B Sheltered solid man-made structures

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Belding's savannah sparrow	SE	Year-round	
Birds	California Ridgeway's rail	FE, SE	Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Feb - Sep	
Birds	coastal California gnatcatcher	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Plants	San Diego marsh-elder	SR	Year-round	
Plants	Nuttall's lotus	SR	Variable	
Plants	coast woolly-heads	SR	Variable	

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	/Coordinator	South Coastal Information Center	(619) 594-5682
T	/San Diego Coast District	California State Parks	(619) 688-3260
T	/Southern Communication Dispatch	California State Parks	(951) 443-2969
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:

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

The mouth of the site is stabilized as it passes under the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) over crossing. There is one permanent boom anchoring point remaining in the lagoon which is located close to PCH on the seawall.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Strong currents exist near the river mouth and need to be taken in consideration when determining which direction and shoreline to deploy boom from. Boom can be delivered from the north lot which is preferable for safety and resource protection. If necessary, boom can be delivered to the site from PCH and traffic control should be used while off-loading boom on the narrow road shoulder. The lagoon is a known breeding site for mosquitos infected with the West Nile Virus (WNV).

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: III****Strategy: 6-275.1 Objective:** Build Berm

Strategy: Close the creek 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. Approval from Darren Smith, CA State Parks Senior Environmental Scientist (619) 952-3895 is required before putting in the request to the UC for berming the Los Peñasquitos lagoon inlet. Contracted heavy equipment operator is Lloyd Web, Roberts Engineering (760) 594-2527.

Table of Response Resources

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

Strategy: 6-275.2 Objective: Exclude Oil

Strategy: Deploy harbor boom across the primary channel from the salt marsh inside the lagoon to the sand spit near the PCH bridge, preventing the upstream movement of oil. This site is highly dynamic and actual shoreline anchor point locations may vary depending on conditions. Observe the onsite tidal current flow to determine which side to set first and secure the two ends of the boom by either setting shoreline anchors or by using existing suitable line attachment points. Shoreline anchors should be placed on cobble or sand to avoid anchoring on salt marsh vegetation.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor Boom			600	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i>
Staff	Staff to Deploy			4		<i>Last Test: 10/17/2023</i>

Logistics:

Directions: From Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) at the north end of Torrey Pines State Beach, take Carmel Valley Road to McGonigle Road then turn into the State Park parking lot. Parking and staging area is available near the lagoon mouth. A beach access road is located under the PCH bridge.

Land Access: All access is available.

On-Water Limitations: At low tide, boom may be deployed by personnel using waders in the shallow channels. Small skiffs may be launched from PCH or the State Park parking lot.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Parking and staging areas are available at the mouth of the lagoon. State beach parking lot is located off McGonagle road on north side of lagoon mouth.

Communications Problems: None.

Additional Operational Comments:

