

**6-470-A Site Summary - Tijuana River****6-470-A****County:** San Diego **ACP Division/Segment:** SD - O - S007 SD - O - S008**NOAA Chart:** 18772**Map Book:** 1349 F4**Decimal Degrees:** 32.55676 -117.13026**Site Description:**

This site is within the following Marine Protected Area: Tijuana River Mouth Marine Conservation Area, and is governed by special protections established by the CDFW Marine Region. The Tijuana River and the Tijuana Slough Complex form a large wildlife preserve. Caution should be exercised to limit impact to Western snowy plover and California least tern nesting areas on the beach dunes and beach. There is also a dune restoration project in the area. Cleanup crews should be cautioned about potential water quality biohazard from sewage contamination.

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

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Belding's savannah sparrow	SE	Year-round	
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Feb - Sep	
Birds	California Ridgeway's rail	FE, SE	Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Plants	intertidal mudflat		Year-round	
Plants	salt marsh bird's beak	FE, SE	Variable	
Plants	pickleweed		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	/Coordinator	South Coastal Information Center	(619) 594-5682
T	/Refuge Manager	San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge	(619) 575-2704
T	/Reserve Manager	Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve	(619) 575-3613
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:**

Due to the strong tidal currents found near the mouth of this estuary, berm construction is likely the most reliable protection strategy for excluding oil from entering this site. Construction of a berm should be accomplished with the oversight of a local environmental resources manager.

**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:**

The river water is known to have elevated bacteria counts that may pose a health threat to responders. Beach access is possible from the north or the south shore using all terrain vehicles. Better access is available from the trail at the visitors center. During summer months California least terns are likely to be nesting on the beach. USFWS must be consulted.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: III****Strategy: 6-470.1 Objective:** Build Berm

*Strategy:* Construct a barrier berm with sand borrowed from the lower beach. Do not use sand from the existing dunes. Consider installing an underflow pipe at the river mouth during seasons when the Tijuana River has moderate or low outflows. The berm may not be an option during high winter outflows.

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: 6-470.2 Objective:** Exclude Oil

*Strategy:* Use a skiff to deploy swamp boom and exclude oil from the northern branch of the main channel that leads to Oneonta Slough. There is a pickup truck access path from the park headquarters that can be used to gain access to the boom deployment area.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			150	feet	<i>Strategy Updated: Last Test: 9/16/2014</i>
Anchor	Danforth	15 lb		2		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Strategy: 6-470.3 Objective:** Exclude Oil

*Strategy:* Use a skiff to deploy swamp boom and exclude oil from the channel branch that flows east into the interior of the marsh.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			150	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	15 lb		2		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Strategy: 6-470.4 Objective:** Exclude Oil

*Strategy:* Use a skiff to deploy swamp boom to exclude oil from the channel that flows south from the estuary mouth.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			150	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	15 lb		2		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Strategy: 6-470.5 Objective:** Deploy Sorbent Boom

*Strategy:* When extreme tides threaten to float oil into the low lying pickleweed marsh, install a protective layer of sorbent sweep (or pom poms) on the edge of the pickleweed to minimize the spread of oil into the interior of the marsh. (This strategy is not depicted on the site diagram.)

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Sorbent Boom			1500	feet	
Anchor	Danforth	15 lb		10		
Vessel	Skiff or Punt			1		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			2		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* The mouth of the Tijuana River can be accessed along the beach face either from the south or north but with restrictions during nesting season. This site is within the following Marine Protected Area: Tijuana River Mouth Marine Conservation Area, and is governed by special protections established by the CDFW Marine Region.

*Land Access:* The mouth of the Tijuana Estuary can be accessed from the north by traveling south on the beach from the access point near the street address; 1680 Seacoast Dr. Imperial Beach, CA 91932.

*On-Water Limitations:* Limited water access can be made using hand launched skiffs from a trail near the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, California 91932.

*Communications Problems:*

*Additional Operational Comments:* The Tijuana River mouth is open year-round and subject to flooding following rainstorms. The river divides into three main flow channels, and each channel is handled as a separate prioritized strategy within this plan. Seasonal sand migration in the area may change the desired location(s) for protective boom placement(s).

