

2-326 -A Site Summary- Coyote Hills Slough -Alameda Flood Control Channel 2-326 -A

County: **Alameda**
USGS Quad: **Newark, Redwood Point**

Thomas Guide Location
AAA Hayward - U
Latitude N
37 29.0
Longitude W
122 02.0
NOAA Chart: **San Francisco Bay, Southern Part**

Last Page Update : 10/1/2002

SITE DESCRIPTION:

This wide flood control channel begins at I-880 and extends about 5 miles to the bay front mouth (about 4 miles south of the San Mateo Bridge and about 2 miles south of Old Alameda Creek mouth). At the mouth, the channel is about one-third mile wide. It is bounded by flood control levees and includes over 440 acres of salt marsh and several adjacent marshes and salt ponds draw water from the channel. This channel is owned and maintained by Alameda County. The narrow portions of the channel are over 500 feet wide, and the waterway itself is only a small portion of the total channel. The north half of the channel had historic levees which separated it from the bay and from the old slough, but these levees are now compromised, and small finger channels provide tidal exchange. Most of the channel is saltmarsh and is tidally influenced. Of the adjacent properties which draw water from the Slough, the land to the north is mostly Eden Landing Ecological Reserve land (CA DFG); property on the south side of the channel is mostly East Bay Regional Parks District land on the east end (Coyote Hills Regional Park); and toward the bay, USFWS land (currently leased to Cargill Salt). Alameda Creek Trails EBRPD maintains trails on both levees. The watershed of this large channel drains several hundred square miles including urban areas; so, urban threats are also a concern here. The levees are year-round roads all the way to the bay front.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

The marsh is an "A" priority all year.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Within the channel there are about 400 acres of salt marsh habitat and shallows with the typical complement of fauna and flora. Most of the marsh is pickleweed and high marsh, but there is cordgrass marsh at the bay front. In addition, the extensive marshes and salt ponds adjacent which draw water from the channel are at risk.

The endangered California clapper rail and the threatened California black rail live in the marshes. Endangered least tern forage in the channel near the mouth.

The endangered salt marsh harvest mouse inhabits these marshes.

This is a steelhead stream. So, adults pass through on their way upstream and smolts migrate downstream.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Ohlone cultural sites are nearby. Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison -(916) 653-9125), and the Northwest Information Center, (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College ((707) 332-1117)) for specific information on historic or cultural resources in this area.

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/O		Alameda County Flood Control	(510) 670-5500
B/T		NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3232
B	Joy Albertson	US Fish & Wildlife Service, SF Bay (NWR)	(510) 792-0222
E	EBRPD Dispatch EBRP	East Bay Regional Park District	(510) 881-1833
E	Pat Metelli	Cargill Salt	(510) 790-8610

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

2-326 -A Site Strategy - Coyote Hills Slough -Alameda Flood Control Channel 2-326 -A

County and Thomas Guide Location

NOAA CHART

Latitude N

Longitude W

AAA Hayward - U Alameda

San Francisco Bay, Southern Part

37 29.0 122 02.0

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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Oil from the bay or inland poses a threat to over 430 acres of marshes which are habitat for many species including rare and endangered birds and small animals. Concern is to stop oil from entering the waterway and marshes from the bay, or for inland oil, minimize impacts and keep oil from leaving the channel. Minimize trampling of vegetation and disturbance of wildlife. Avoid trampling oil into sediment.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Shallow water and extensive mudflats at mouth. Seas to 3 feet at bayfront during windy conditions. Aircraft beware of highpower wires crossing the channel about 2 miles east of waterfront.

SITE STRATEGIES

Shallow water craft or high tide conditions are necessary for some operations. Currents in channels tend to be strong, requiring diagonal booming, heavy anchors and chain, and longer anchoring scope in currents. Deployment from levee may be most feasible approach since levee roads are good and shallow waters pose limitations.

Strategy 2-326.1 Objective: Primary: Exclusion booming when oil threat is from bay.

a) Exclude oil from entering main channel: deploy boom at the mouth in a chevron and deflect as much as possible to natural collection site south of mouth. 1400 ft of 4X4+ boom (9X9+ Hboom may be substituted). Back with a 500 ft diagonal of sorbent boom. This action is best addressed from water or from south levee.

b) Exclude oil from entering the marshy area north of the stream mouth by booming from the chevron above, to the north levee. 1300 ft of 4X4+ boom (9X9+ Hboom may be substituted). There is a low partially destroyed dike which extends from the north channel levee to the mouth of main channel; several small finger channels enable flow throughout this large pickleweed marsh section: block each with sorbent boom and stake in place. This action is best addressed from water or from north levee.

Strategy 2-326.2 Objective: Backup primary bay exclusion: secondary layer of exclusion booming for oil threat from bay under windy conditions or major oil threat. This is a repeat of primary strategy minus sorbent boom.

a) Back-up exclusion on main channel: deploy boom at the mouth in a chevron and deflect as much as possible to natural collection site south of mouth, behind primary exclusion. 1400 ft of 4X4+ boom (harbor boom may be substituted). This action is best addressed from water or from south levee.

b) Back-up exclusion from entering the marshy area north of the stream mouth by booming from the chevron above, to the north levee, behind primary exclusion. 1300 ft of 4X4+ boom (harbor boom may be substituted). This action is best addressed from water or from north levee.

Strategy 2-326.3 Objective: Skimming operations at this site. Natural skim pocket with access just south of mouth.

There is a natural skimming pocket surrounded by low dikes just to south of channel mouth. Strategy 2-326.1 and .2 should direct skimmable oil to this location. Use 600 ft of light boom with sorbent backing to devise a skimming pocket to trap and hold oil in the pocket (also Oil Snare for trapping on ebb). It may be necessary to excavate a depression to enable skimming head. Storage tank or vacuum truck will be necessary for oil collection. Light stations will be needed for night operations including skimming. NOTE: if oil is too light for effective skimming, on-scene staff should contact IC to consider passive collection with Oil Snare.

Strategy 2-326.4 Objective: Inland oil threats: exclusion, deflection, collection.

In the event of inland oil threats, seek collection site offering best advantage in current management and access and create a skim pocket. (Excavation of pocket may be necessary to keep oil from entraining or re-entering current.) Use diagonal booming (light boom) to move oil into collection pocket, and back deflection with sorbent. Line skim pocket with light boom and sorbent. Use Oil Snare to collect oil as needed. Shoreside skimming (SSS) will require on-site storage or vacuum truck. Light stations will be needed for night operations including skimming. Actual amount of boom needed will depend on where oil can be controlled: 700 ft of swamp boom and 100 ft of oil snare should be adequate.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
2-326.1		2700		500	17 2 22#+ & 5 12#+ danfth & 10 stakes	1	2			10	
2-326.2		2700			7 2 22#+ & 5 12#+ danfth & heavy chain	1	2			7	
2-326.3		600	100 OS	400	12 2 12#+ danfth & 10 stakes		1	1 SSS	2 storage tank or vac truck, light.	3	2

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

Access to northside levee: exit I-880 at Alvarado, north (right) and after crossing the flood control channel, turn left on Lowry Rd and continue to Newark Blvd (Union City Blvd): on the opposite side of the Blvd is an East Bay Regional Parks (EBRP) access parking area: the flood control levee is accessible though a locked gate (call EBRP or Alameda County Flood Control). Access directly by boat. This wide flood control channel begins at I-880 and extends about 5 miles to the bay front mouth (about 4 miles south of the San Mateo Bridge and about 2 miles south of Old Alameda Creek mouth). At the mouth, the channel is about one-third mile wide. It is bounded by flood control levees and includes over 440 acres of salt marsh and several adjacent marshes and salt ponds draw water from the channel. This channel is owned and maintained by Alameda County.

LAND ACCESS: All season gravel roads to bay on Alameda Co Flood Control levees.

WATER LOGISTICS: Shallow draft vessels <3'

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Boat launching available at Redwood City Harbor. Small skiffs may be launched from levees:
and Services Available: south levee is closer to water.

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

Large staging area available at Redwood City Harbor. Four small local staging on north and south levees at East Bay Regional Park - Alameda Creek Trails (5 acres, parking, chem toilets: 2250 Issherwood, Fremont.) Additional staging area and field post possible at National Wildlife Refuge HQ or EBRP Coyote Hills Regional Park. Full Command Post available through Alameda County OES.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: None

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Vehicle access is controlled by Alameda County Flood Control.

