

3-160 -A/B Site Summary- Laguna Creek Inlet & Beach**3-160 -A/B****County:** Santa Cruz**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Davenport

970

36° 58.8'

122° 09.7'

NOAA Chart:**Last Page Update:** 6/30/2014**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

This site includes Laguna Creek and the deep pocket cove at its mouth. A seasonal lagoon forms during summer months. Cove and marsh area has thick vegetation and supports a biologically diverse habitat. Sandy beach consisting of medium to coarse substrate. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources. Laguna Creek is a deep pocket beach in summer with a natural berm six to eight feet high protecting the creek inlet, which is at south end of beach. The creek meanders around the base of a cliff that surrounds the beach, & exits at the south end of beach. The natural creek passage to the beach is through a hole cut through the cliff. The area becomes a wave-cut platform in winter. If sand is present, high winter flows may cause the creek to breach the berm. Oil may not reach creek mouth or marsh because the creek passes through a hole in the cliff. Even with heavy beach erosion in winter, oil may not reach the creek inlet.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Birds are present year round; steelhead may be present in winter, spring and fall. All beach area is habitat for the Western snowy plovers (FT). Use caution whenever utilizing heavy equipment on beach habitat in a response situation.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Lagoon contains juvenile salmonids utilizing area as nursery. Dunes were historically a nesting habitat for threatened snowy plovers. Marsh area provides foraging area for shorebirds.

Coastal sea birds include brown pelicans; abundant shorebirds include western snowy plover (FT). Black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern) are known to nest along the coastal bluffs.

The San Francisco tree lupine moth may be found in the coastal scrub plant community. While not a significant gathering site, Southern Sea Otters (FT) are common throughout Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and may be present near-shore year round.

Steelhead trout (FT) and potentially Coho salmon (SE/FE) use estuary for rearing and staging. Tidewater gobies (FE) are known to occur within the lagoon.

Site is located within Black Abalone Critical Habitat. Actual presence of black abalone is unknown.

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

Blasdale's bent grass (*Agrostis blasdalei*) and Michael's piperia (*Piperia michaelii*) are plant species in the bluff scrub community

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Contact the California Dept of Parks and Recreation - Office of Historic Preservation (Eric Allison: 916-445-7044), and the Northwest Information Center (Bryan Much, Sonoma State College: 707-588-8455) 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
T/E/C		Santa Cruz District	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(831) 335-6390
O			Trust for Public Land	(415) 495-5660
O			Santa Cruz County Sherriff	(831) 471-1121
T		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
O	Chris Coburn	Resources Planner	Santa Cruz County - Environmental Health Services	(831) 454-2763
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
E/T	David Ledig		BLM California Coastal National Monument	(831) 630-5006
E/T	James Weigand	Ecologist	BLM	(916) 978-4656

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Laguna Creek Beach is a recreation area. Private ownership, County owns easement

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

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HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Access by foot only.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 3-160.1 Objective: Exclude oil by berming with sand, place sorbent boom 30' landward of berm to ensure oil exclusion

Close off the overwashed inlet mouth with a sediment dike (medium-grained sand) with available sediments.

NOTE: No vehicle access to collection area. Very limited access.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-160.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0		600' 6" PVC pipe, dozer or equivalent berming	12	

LOGISTICS

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

From Santa Cruz, take Highway 1 about 6 ½ miles north. Pass the Baldwin Creek and Majors Creek Inlets. Walk up the hill and cross over the railroad tracks. May be able to access beach by ATV over the dune, although the route is very steep. Otherwise, access by foot only. This site includes Laguna Creek and the deep pocket cove at its mouth. A seasonal lagoon forms during summer months. Cove and marsh area has thick vegetation and supports a biologically diverse habitat. Sandy beach consisting of medium to coarse substrate. Site is associated with BLM California Coastal National Monument resources.

LAND ACCESS

Access beach by ATV over the dune (route is steep) otherwise foot only

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:****ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

