

**3-280 -A Site Summary- Manresa & Sunset State Beaches****3-280 -A****County:** Santa Cruz**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Watsonville West

994 and 1014; 1014

36° 55.8'

121° 52.1'

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

State beaches approx 60yds wide and contiguous to North Rio Del Mar State Beach, and Sunset Beach adjacent to South. Easy access and therefore heavy recreational impacts. Beach area backed by steep, vegetated cliffs. Manresa State Beach and Sunset State Beach. Fine to medium grain sandy beaches. Expansive beach with easy access with potentially high recreation.

**SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Year round.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

All beach area is critical habitat for the western snowy plover (FT). Use caution when conducting any beach response and especially in the dunes. Nesting occurs Feb to Sept and site serves as rookery all year long.

Western Snowy Plover (FT): present year-round, nesting March-September. Other shore birds and sea birds are present.

The black legless lizard (CA Species of Special Concern) uses the foredunes near Shell Road (CNDDDB). 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.

Grunion, surf smelt and several species of surfperch are known to spawn/forage along these beaches.

Pismo clams are present in low numbers along the intertidal shoreline.

The Monterey spineflower (FT) present in the dunes at Manresa State Beach and the Robust spineflower (FE) south of the Manresa State Beach entrance. Locally unique plant species include: *Habernaria elegans*, *Clarkia rebicunda blasdalei*, *Salix hindsiana*, *Agrostis californica*, *Cirsium Quercetorum*, *Wyethia* sp., and *Gnaphalium bicolor*. Other locally unique plants include *Carex pansa*, *Chorizanthe* sp., *Poa douglasii*, and *Erysimum ammophilum*.

**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			Santa Cruz County Sherriff	(831) 471-1121
T/E/C		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/O	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

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**NOAA Chart:****Last Page Update:** 6/30/2014**CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:**

Western Snowy Plover (FT): present year-round, nesting March-September. Other shore birds and sea birds are present. Pismo clams are present in low numbers. The black legless lizard (CA Species of Special Concern) uses the foredunes near Shell Road. Plant species include the Monterey spineflower (FT), present in the dunes at Manresa State Beach, and the robust spineflower (FE) south of the Manresa State Beach entrance.

**HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:****SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-280.1 Objective: Offshore Containment and Recovery Activities to Minimize or Avert Oil From Impacting Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife

This site is difficult to protect as is most of the outer coast. No on-site protection is feasible.

a) Recommended response strategy is on-water containment and recovery

b) Pursue feasibility of alternative response technologies (e.g. dispersants and in-situ burning) to reduce the volume of oil reaching the site.

**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
3-280.1											0

**LOGISTICS**

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

Manresa: Take San Andreas Road from Highway 1 (between Rio Del Mar and Watsonville) and go west toward ocean. Approximately 1.5 miles (intersection with Mar Monte Avenue) bear right and proceed about another .5 miles. Turn right onto Country Road to get to Manresa Beach (Country Road occurs as San Andreas Road makes a sharp bend to the south).

Sunset: To get to Sunset Beach from Manresa, continue south on San Andreas Road for approximately 3 miles and turn right onto Sunset Beach Road. Road will terminate at beach. Alternatively, from Highway 1 north near Watsonville, take Highway 129/Riverside Drive exit, cross Highway 1 to west side, turn right onto Lee Road, left on West Beach, right on San Andreas Road, and proceed approximately 2 miles. Turn left onto Sunset Beach Drive and follow to end. State beaches approx 60yds wide and contiguous to North Rio Del Mar State Beach, and Sunset Beach adjacent to South. Easy access and therefore heavy recreational impacts. Beach area backed by steep, vegetated cliffs.

**LAND ACCESS**

Beach accessible to vehicles and heavy equipment.

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Santa Cruz harbor or beach launch.

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

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

