

3-325 -A Site Summary- Salinas River State Beach**3-325 -A****County:** Monterey**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Moss Landing

36° 47.6'

121° 47.8'

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

State Beach site boundary to north is Sandholdt Bridge, to south is the Salinas River. Beach site is approximately 4 miles in length and approx 50 yds wide at MHT. Fine to medium-coarse grain sand beach backed by vegetated dunes. The beach is exposed to open ocean waves and high surf, especially during storms. Currents, generally northward, cause driftwood accumulation, heavy at times. Ocean beach is 100% sand (ESI 3). The Monterey Dunes Colony, a residential area, is located in the upland area. Salinas River Wildlife Area (managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (805-644-1766) is also nearby).

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Year Round

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

All beach area is critical habitat for the western snowy plover (FT) and provides nesting, foraging, and roosting habitat; nesting occurs March-September. Use caution when conducting any beach response and especially in the dunes.

Brown pelicans and Western snowy plovers (FT). Various shore and seabirds are also present. Caspian terns nest Apr-Aug primarily with vegetated dunes. The short-eared owl (CA Species of Special Concern) can be found near the mouth of the Salinas River (CNDDB).

Black legless lizard (CA Species of Special Concern) inhabit area within the site. Salt Marsh Harvst Mouse (SE/FE) exist onsite. Leatherback sea turtle (FE) is common offshore waters especially during May -Nov. 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.

Pismo clams can be found along the intertidal zone.

Monterey gilia (FE) and Globose Dune beetle are located within site boundaries.

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 | | Monterey District | CA Department of Parks & Recreation | (831) 649-2836 |
| T/E/C | | Northern Communications | CA Department of Parks & Recreation | (916) 358-0333 |
| T | | | US Fish & Wildlife Service | (805) 644-1766 |
| T | Scott Kathey | Emergency Response Coord. | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary | (831) 647-4251 |

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

High recreational use. Beach walking, bird watching, horseback riding, picnicking and non-water contact recreation are the typical beach uses. Also, there is surf fishing, clamming, surfboarding and other water contact use. The entrance to the ecologically diverse Elkhorn Slough is directly adjacent to the Salinas River State Beach.

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Seasonal (nesting) of Western snowy plovers (FT) will affect vehicle and beach access; access must be approved of State Park staff. Other shore and seabirds are also present. Pismo clams can be found. Squid spawn just off-shore during spring and summer months. The north end of this beach is habitat for the black legless lizard (CA Species of Special Concern). The short-eared owl can be found at the mouth of the Salinas River (CA Species of Special Concern). On the dunes, the plant species, Monterey gilia (FE), can be found. The entrance to the ecologically diverse Salinas River Mouth lagoon is directly adjacent to the South end of Salinas River State Beach. Dunes in this unit support the best example of native dune vegetation in the Monterey Bay Area.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Potentially heavy surf during fall, winter months.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 3-325.1 Objective: Offshore Containment and Recovery Activities to Minimize or Avert Oil From Impacting Shoreline Habitats and Wildlife. Prevent injury to sand dunes from cleanup activities

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 type and gear | Boom boat | Skiffs punts | Skimmers No Type | Special Equipment or comment No and kinds | staff deploy | Staff tend |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---|--------------|------------|
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LOGISTICS

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

Seasonal (nesting) of Western snowy plovers (FT) will affect vehicle and beach access; access must be approved of State Park staff. Directions and access: There are four access points. Northern-most: Hwy.1 to Sandholdt Road, cross single-lane bridge and turn left into parking lot. Foot and vehicle access via boardwalk. Second: Hwy 1 to Potrero Rd. to end. Foot and vehicle access through gate. Third: Hwy 1 to Molera Rd. to Monterey Dunes Way to the end. Foot and vehicle access through gate. Southern-most: Hwy 1 to Monterey Dunes Way. At intersection, bear left to continue south on Monterey Dunes Way to the end. Farm road is slippery during wet season or when irrigation occurs. Call California Department of Park and Recreation Dispatch for access through gates, guidance, and sensitive areas, especially for the southern-most access. State Beach site boundary to north is Sandholdt Bridge, to south is the Salinas River. Beach site is approximately 4 miles in length and approx 50 yds wide at MHT.

LAND ACCESS

Beach has access thru State Parks gates, contact SP personnel.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking

and Services Available:

Moss Landing harbor.

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

Elkhorn Slough Reserve HQ conference room

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

