

3-460 -A Site Summary- Carmel River/San Jose Creek Inlet**3-460 -A****County:** Monterey**Thomas Guide Location****Latitude N****Longitude W****USGS Quad:** Monterey

1153

36° 31.7'

121° 55.9'

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

This site includes Carmel River, which includes a lagoon, wetland and adjacent riparian habitat. San Jose Creek lies one-mile south of the Carmel River at San Jose Creek Beach known locally as Monastery Beach, a seasonal stream that supports a small marsh and lagoon system at its mouth. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area. The river mouths may naturally berm themselves off during summer months. Carmel wetland and riparian habitat area have recently undergone extensive native plant re-vegetation. A portion has been designated a State Park Natural Preserve. Highway 1 is adjacent to the beach and parking is allowed on the road shoulder next to the beach.

SEASONAL AND SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Western snowy plover (FT): non-breeding birds likely present at Carmel River State Beach (August - April).

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Lagoon and riparian habitat are sensitive to petroleum release and response operations. Minimize response impacts when berming off lagoon area.

Shorebirds and seabirds, including the brown pelican, Western snowy plover (FT) and Black swifts (CA Species of Special Concern) utilize area as forage and roost.

California red-legged frog (FT) occurs in the Carmel River lagoon and San Jose Creek. 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) are known to be in Carmel River and San Jose Creek (Sept-Mar). Steelhead Young-of-the-Year use lagoon areas as nurseries.

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

Kelp beds are common near-shore.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

South of San Jose Creek, the coastal terrace has been designated a State Park Cultural Preserve due to its high archeological significance and sensitivity. 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
E/T		Northern Communications	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	(916) 358-0333
O			Carmel Police Department	(831) 624-6403
E			City of Carmel	(831) 620-2000
T	Scott Kathey	Emergency Response Coord.	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
T	Becky Ota	Marine Conservation Mgr	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz	Senior Env. Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

High recreational use. Major SCUBA/snorkeling area.

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CONCERNS AND ADVICE TO RESPONDERS:

Shorebirds and seabirds including the brown pelican as well as steelhead trout (FT) use both the Carmel River and San Jose Creek. The wetland and riparian areas of the lower Carmel River are one of the best known and most diverse birding areas in California. Sea otters (FT) are common in the offshore kelp beds. South of San Jose Creek, the coastal terrace has been designated a State Park Cultural Preserve due to its high archeological significance and sensitivity.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS:**SITE STRATEGIES**

Strategy 3-460.1 Objective: Exclude oil with berming from reaching upstream marshes

If needed, place berm across river mouths. Back sand berm with sorbent boom in event of surf overwash.

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 and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
3-460.1	0	0	0	200	0 anchors or stakes to secure boom	0	0	0	0 dozer or front loader to construct sediment berm		

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

Directions to San Jose Creek Inlet and San Jose Creek Beach – Take Highway 1 south, past the signal light at Rio Rd., past Ribera Rd. to San Jose Creek Bridge (more like a big culvert). Parking is on the shore-side of the Highway shoulder. On the right is San Jose Creek Beach, locally known as Monastery Beach. At the down-coast end of the Beach (South end) is a rest room. The creek has an intermittent flow and may flow during the wet season. Another access to the Beach is behind the Bay School at the North end of the Beach. State Park personnel will show the access to those responding to an emergency.

Directions to Carmel River Mouth (Up-coast Side) – Take Highway 1 south. After passing the traffic signal to Carmel at Carpenter St, pass by the next signal light at Carmel Valley Rd, to the next signal light at Rio Rd. Turn Right off the Highway along Rio Rd. until Santa Lucia Ave. Turn left on Santa Lucia Ave. to Carmelo. Turn left on Carmelo and stay on that road until it enters the State Park near a parking area and a rest room. This location is in the vicinity of the Carmel River Mouth.

Directions to Carmel River Mouth (Down-coast Side) – Take Highway 1 south. Pass the Rio Rd. signal. The next road on the right is Ribera Rd. Turn right off the highway and proceed along Ribera Rd. until there is an abrupt turn to the left. At this point, on the right is Calle la Cruz. A locked gate prevents entry in normal situations. During an emergency, the gate will be open. This road leads to the beach. At the bottom, a right turn leads to the down coast side of the River mouth. By turning left, an unimproved service road leads to San Jose Creek Beach. This site includes Carmel River, which includes a lagoon, wetland and adjacent riparian habitat. San Jose Creek lies one-mile south of the Carmel River at San Jose Creek Beach known locally as Monastery Beach, a seasonal stream that supports a small marsh and lagoon system at its mouth. Site is within the California Sea Otter Game Refuge and the following State Marine Protected Area(s): Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area.

LAND ACCESS

Large truck on streets. Limited 4WD on beach

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction
Launching, Loading, Docking
and Services Available:

Point Lobos in Whaler's Cove

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

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS: Emergency Helicopter Areas – A Helicopter Site is located at the South end of San Jose Creek Beach. It is shoreward of the restroom building. This site has been used several times and has the best location. Another site available for helicopters is across the Highway in what is known as the “Polo Field”. There are no facilities nearby.

