

County: San Luis Obispo ACP Division/Segment: SL - B - S005

NOAA Chart: 18700

Map Book: 324 G-6

Decimal Degrees: 35.63387 -121.16383

**Site Description:**

Little Pico Creek Inlet is an intermittent creek with a well-developed saltwater marsh with large wash over terrace in front of wetland. Fronted by fine to medium grained sandy beach. This is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park property, and within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Sea Otter Game Refuge. Species of concern are present year-round. Creek critical habitat for tidewater gobies and steelhead. Western pond turtles may be in this creek. Marine mammals are common offshore including harbor seals, California sea lions, and southern sea otters. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles which extend from shore out to 100 miles offshore. Shore birds and seabirds present year-round including least sandpipers, lesser yellow legs, grebes, killdeers, egrets, black phoebes, gulls, marbled godwits, surf scoters, dabbling ducks, western snowy plovers, and brown pelicans. Compact cobweb thistle near bridge.

**Resources at Risk:**

ESI and Habitat: 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Plants	compact cobwebby thistle	SR	Year-round	
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov	
Reptiles	Western pond turtle	SSC	Year-round	

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/	Central Coast Information Center	(805) 682-4711
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	/Emergency Responder, 24-hr	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 236-6797
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
T	Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4023
T	/Spill Response Coordinator	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - July; steelhead peak spawning March - July. Marine mammal pupping season: Harbor seals March - June; southern sea otters year-round. Leatherback sea turtles are most commonly observed August - November. Western snowy plovers nest March - September; refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in riparian/wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland/riparian areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments. If creek conditions allow, boom/fencing deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across creek to position the boom/fencing to reduce disturbance. Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies (endangered) especially April - July, goby nesting season. Steelhead (critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush for gobies. Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

State Park property.

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-070.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open block entrance with short skirted containment boom (swamp boom) at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. If creek conditions allow, boom deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position the boom (and fence posts or anchors on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Consider booming shorelines of inlet to prevent oiling. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check boom for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp			100	feet	
Anchor				2		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		

**Strategy: 4-070.2 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is closed install excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal wash over. When creek mouth is open use a filter fence barrier for exclusion/containment. Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 30 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, and the spill consists of heavy oil. If creek conditions allow, filter fence deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position fencing (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Maintenance/monitoring of filter fencing necessary.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing			100	feet	
stakes				20		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-070.3 Objective:** Build Berm

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block creek entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Cover berm with plastic sheeting to minimize erosion; and consider backing berm with 10" swamp boom and/or sorbent boom. To create protective berm, take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. Manual building of berm preferred over heavy equipment even when heavy equipment can access site. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check for berm effectiveness.

## Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
skimmer				1		
Piping						

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Take Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 w to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N). Follow Hwy 1 N approx. 1.5 miles north of San Simeon. From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. Continue on Hwy 1 to site.

*Land Access:* Foot path at south end of Little Pico Creek Bridge. No vehicle access

*On-Water Limitations:* Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 30 miles south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging Area: Vista turnout 2/10 mile south of Little Pico Creek bridge for parking. William R. Hearst State Beach approx. 1.4 miles north has some facilities. Command Post: Motels in San Simeon is approx. 1.5 miles south; State Park offices at Hearst Castle. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles airport is approx. 45 min inland. Private Landing strip is approx. 2 miles north, north of Hearst castle Visitors Center.

*Communications Problems:* None

*Additional Operational Comments:*



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-070 Name: Little Pico Creek Inlet and Beach

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 10/6/2023

- +++++ Filter Fence
- xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Swamp Boom
- [Blue Hatched Box] Dike or Berm