

**4-145-A Site Summary - Morro Strand State Beach (Pismo Clam Preserve)****4-145-A***County:* San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - E - S003*NOAA Chart:* 18703*Map Book:* 611 D-5*Decimal Degrees:* 35.37267 -120.86471**Site Description:**

Morro Strand Beach south, Pismo Clam Preserve (Dept. of Fish and Wildlife designation). Pismo clams are present year-round. Designated critical habitat for western snowy plovers. From just north of Morro Rock to Azure Street is designated Pismo Clam Preserve area. The southern portion of this Preserve is within the City's jurisdiction (Morro Bay Harbor Department) and the northern section of the Preserve is within Morro Strand State Beach. Fine to medium grained sandy beach just north of Morro Rock. Shorebirds and seabirds are present year-round, are of concern, and include brown pelicans, willets, sanderlings, and curlews. Southern sea otters are common offshore. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles offshore.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Invertebrates	Pismo clam		Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov	

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
O	Brian Owens/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, SLO	(562) 370-4770
O	Ted Schiafone/Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Department	(805) 772-6255
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
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:**

Western snowy plover nest in the foredunes 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. Leatherback sea turtles are most commonly observed Aug. - Nov; California grunion peak spawning March - June.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Western snowy plovers nest on this beach March - September, 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. Dept. Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, and State Dept. of Parks and Rec. should be consulted before staging motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted. The southern portion of this beach, from Morro Rock north to Morro creek, Morro Rock City Beach, is owned and managed by the City of Morro Bay. North of Morro Creek beach is owned and managed by the State Dept, of Parks and Recreation. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:****Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-145.1 Objective:** No Onsite Options: Consider Offshore Containment/Recovery/ART  
*Strategy:* Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) are the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.  
Table of Response Resources

**Last Page Update****Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 N (Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo), to Morro Bay Blvd. Exit, go west to Embarcadero St. which turns into Coleman Dr., turn into Coleman Park parking area. The site is beach just north of Morro Rock. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S), follow directions as above.

*Land Access:* Vehicles/heavy equipment beach access from Coleman Park.

*On-Water Limitations:* Morro Bay boat launch approx. 1 mile south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging area: Coleman Park parking area. Command Post: U.S. Coast Guard offices in Morro Bay or Harbor Dept. office. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 30 min. inland.

*Communications Problems:* None.

*Additional Operational Comments:*



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-145 Name: Morro Strand Beach (Pismo Clam Preserve)

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 2/5/2024

**No shoreline strategies;  
consider offshore strategies**