

4-305-A Site Summary - Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve**4-305-A***County:* San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - G - S003*NOAA Chart:**Map Book:* 631 D-7*Decimal Degrees:* 35.28288 -120.88241**Site Description:**

Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve is within Montana De Oro State Park and is at the southeast corner of the Morro Bay sand spit. This site is approximately 1/4 mile inland and is in the stabilized, vegetated back dunes. It is highly unlikely oil would impact this area (as such there is no associated Strategy Sheet for this site), however there are back bay access concerns due to the Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat and other listed species. Species of concern are present year-round. The endangered Morro Bay kangaroo rat, the candidate species morro blue butterfly and the proposed endangered morro shoulderband snail occupies this dune scrub habitat. The threatened morro manzanita plant species is also in this area.

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

| | Resource Name | Status | Presence | Sensitivity |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Insects | Morro Bay blue butterfly | | | |
| Invertebrates | Morro shoulderband snail | FE | Year-round | |
| Mammals | morro bay kangaroo rat | FE, SE | Year-round | |
| Plants | Morro manzanita | FT | 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 | SURCOM (24-hr)/ | California State Parks (Dispatch) | (951) 443-2969 |
| 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:

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Western snowy plovers nest March-September and overwinter the rest of year on this beach; 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.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Within Montana de Oro State Park.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: II**

Strategy: 4-305.1 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 Los Osos Valley Rd. (LOVR) exit, just south of San Luis Obispo. Turn left on LOVR, continue for approx. 10 miles until LOVR turns into Pecho Valley Rd. Take Pecho Valley Rd. 2 miles to the "Sand Spit Beach Access Day Use Area" turn off. At times the front gate can be locked. Normally vehicles can drive on this paved road to the parking area where there is another locked gate. To open gates call State Parks dispatch (831) 649-2810. This road ends but 4-wheel drive vehicles can access sand spit to the north and can drive south to Hazard Reef. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 1 S) to South Bay Blvd. (Los Osos/Baywood Park) exit. Continue south on South Bay Blvd. To LOVR, turn right on LOVR which turns into Pecho Valley Rd. Continue as above.

Land Access: 4-wheel drive vehicles can access sand spit.

On-Water Limitations: None.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging Area: Parking area at Sand Spit Beach access Day use area (phone, electricity and restrooms available, no lighting). Command Post: State Parks Headquarters at Montana de Oro State Park (small building). U.S. Coast Guard office in Morro Bay. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo. Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport, approx. 30 min. inland.

Communications Problems: None.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-305 Name: Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 11/6/2023

**No shoreline strategies;
consider offshore strategies**