

4-340-A Site Summary - San Luis Obispo Creek**4-340-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - I - S002 SL - I - S003**NOAA Chart:** 18704**Map Book:** 693 A-4**Decimal Degrees:** 35.17938 -120.73821**Site Description:**

San Luis Obispo Creek Inlet, fronted by Avila Beach (medium to coarse grained sandy beach). Creek mouth inlet is approx. 75' across. There is a fringing marsh, a tidal flat area, and a small lagoon under bridge. This is a very popular recreational beach. Riprap and mud flat on east side of creek approx. 300' upstream of creek mouth. A mixed sand and gravel beach and rocky platform on west side of creek. Species of concern are present year-round. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles and black abalone; creek designated critical habitat for Steelhead and tidewater goby. California red-legged frogs, Western Pond turtles may be found in this creek. Abundant shorebirds including gulls, terns, sandpipers, killdeer, coots, western grebes, whimbrels, egrets, mallards, herons, and red-necked grebes. Seabirds include cormorants, belted kingfisher, and brown pelican. Western snowy plovers utilize this beach. Southern sea otters are common.

Resources at Risk:

ESI and Habitat: 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches
10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	red-necked grebe	FP		
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	brown pelican	FP, SP	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	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
O	/24hr	Point San Luis Harbor	(805) 595-5435
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
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:

Steelhead peak spawning March - July; California red-legged frogs breed November - March; tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - May; leatherback sea turtles 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. 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.

Steelhead (critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July. California red-legged frogs breed November - March; tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - May; leatherback sea turtles 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.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Avila Beach is under the Harbor District's Jurisdiction; vehicle access on beach with Harbor Dept. approval. This is a highly used recreational beach. Live fish markets with water intakes on Hartford Pier.

Site Strategies:

Site Validation Level: II

Strategy: 4-340.1 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; place above high tide line. 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 Boom			1000	feet	<i>Strategy Updated:</i>
Anchor				2		<i>Last Test: 5/2/2024</i>
boat/skiff				1		
skimmer				1		
Staff				5		

Strategy: 4-340.2 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			200	feet	
skimmer				1		
Stakes				20		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

Strategy: 4-340.3 Objective: Build Berm

Strategy: When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block creek entrance with sediment berm or

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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
Heavy Equip	Backhoe					
Piping						
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
Vehicle	ATV					

Logistics:

Directions: From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Avila Beach Dr. exit. Take Avila Beach Dr. to the end to Port San Luis parking area. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 101 S), to Avila Beach exit San Luis Bay Dr. Take San Luis Bay Dr. to stop sign, turn right on Avila Beach Dr. follow directions above.

Land Access: Vehicle/ATV access possible w/ Harbor Dept. permission.

On-Water Limitations: Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis boat launch.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging Area: Port San Luis Harbor District parking lot. Command Post: Port San Luis Harbor District. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 15 min.

Communications Problems: None.

