

County: San Luis Obispo ACP Division/Segment: SL - J - S001

NOAA Chart: 18700

Map Book: 714 C-3

Decimal Degrees: 35.13358 -120.6407

**Site Description:**

Pismo Creek inlet and estuary in Pismo State Beach. High recreational use area. Numerous businesses in this area. Sentinel Peak Resources Oil company has spill response equipment at their oil field facility approximately 4 miles up Price Canyon Rd. ConocoPhillips also operates a crude oil transportation pipeline which crosses Pismo Creek near Addie/Dolliver Bridge; pipeline runs underneath creek estuary. Both Sentinel Peak facility and ConocoPhillips pipeline are potential inland spill sources. Sentinel Peak has NPDES permit associated with water reclamation project and has potential ability to reduce or increase flow into Pismo Creek. Most species of concern in this area are present year-round. Creek critical habitat for tidewater goby and Steelhead; western pond turtles and California red-legged frogs also in this creek. Pismo Beach is designated critical habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns. Offshore is designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles. Other birds: brown pelicans, gulls, terns, yellowlegs, sanderlings on the beach and herons, egrets, mallards, swallows, coots, loons, rails in the estuary. Southern sea otters, California sea lions, and harbor seals are common offshore. Pismo clams are found in moderate-high concentrations on the beach fronting Pismo Creek. Sensitive plants in the dunes include beach spectacle pod, marsh sandwort, and surf thistle.

**Resources at Risk:**

- ESI and Habitat: 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes
- 6B Riprap
- 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	
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr - Sep	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round	
Invertebrates	Pismo clam		Year-round	
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round	
Mammals	California sea lion	FP	Year-round	
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round	
Plants	beach spectaclepod	ST	Year-round	
Plants	marsh sandwort	FE, SE		
Plants	surf thistle	ST		
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov	
Reptiles	southwestern 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
E	Johnny Simpson/Safety Supervisor	Sentinel Peak Resources	(661) 316-7387
O	Brian Owens/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, SLO	(562) 370-4770
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
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:**

Tidewater goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - July; steelhead peak spawning March - July; leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November; western snowy plovers nest March - September; California least terns nest April - 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:**

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. 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. 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.

Sentinel Peak Resources oil production and storage facility is located approximately 4 miles upstream. Sentinel Peak has NPDES permit associated with water reclamation project and has potential ability to reduce or increase flow into creek. A ConocoPhillips pipeline also crosses Pismo Creek near the bridge over estuary. Both are potential inland sources for an oil spill. For inland spill, attempt to contain spill and recover oil as close to source of discharge as possible using booming, fencing, berming; refer to Pismo Creek Upstream Strategy Sheet, ACP Site #410, for more details.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Beach fronting creek is a State Beach (State Department of Parks and Recreation).

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: III**

**Strategy: 4-415.1 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
Boom	Swamp			150	feet
Anchor				2	
skimmer				1	
Staff				4	
Vehicle	ATV			1	

**Last Page Update**

*Strategy Updated:*  
*Last Test:* 10/22/2014

**Strategy: 4-415.2 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
Fence	Construction Fencing			150	feet
skimmer				1	

**Last Page Update**

**4-415-A Site Strategy - Pismo Creek****4-415-A**

Stakes		15
Staff		4
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)	
Misc.	Stake Driver	1
Vehicle	ATV	1

**Strategy: 4-415.3 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
Skimmer				1		
Sandbags						
Heavy Equip	Backhoe					
Piping						
Staff				6		

**Logistics:**

**Directions:** From the south: Take Hwy 101 N, off at Price St. Exit (exit 190), straight to Ocean View Ave. left, to Cypress St. left for Addie St. to park with parking lot next to estuary. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to 41 W to 46 W to 101 s) to HWY 1/Dolliver St. (exit 191A); veer right to PCH/HWY 1/Dolliver St. , right on Park; left on Cypress to Addie St. to park with parking lot next to estuary.

**Land Access:** Vehicle/heavy equipment beach access w/ State Park permission.

**On-Water Limitations:** Limitations: Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis approx. 15 miles north. Morro Bay boat ramp, approx. 30 miles north.

**Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:** Staging Area: Parking lot at Addie St. Park. Command post: State Parks Headquarters at Pismo Beach; CDFW office in San Luis Obispo. Airports: SLO County Airport approx. 15 miles north, Oceano Airport for smaller planes is a few miles away.

**Communications Problems:** None.

