

**4-672-A Site Summary - Sycamore Creek & Andree Clark Bird Refuge****4-672-A***County:* Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment:** SB - R - S03 SB - R - S04*NOAA Chart:* 18725(d) *Map Book:* 996 E-F x 4 *Decimal Degrees:* 34.41667 -119.66583**Site Description:**

A stretch of wide, sandy beach extending from Sycamore Creek on the west, to just east of the outlet for the bird refuge. Fine to medium-grained beach, backed by a low-lying grassy park or parking lots. There are two estuaries of concern. Sycamore Creek estuary is a small brackish water ponded area on the upper beach. This small estuary sometimes dries up. The second area of concern is the brackish water pond area at the south side of the Andre Clark Bird Refuge (created by the outflow of the bird refuge). The bird refuge is a 30-acre lake inland of Cabrillo Blvd. that connects to the ocean through a channel running under the street and onto the beach. The channel can be closed by a weir operated by the city.

**Resources at Risk:**

- ESI and Habitat:* 10B Freshwater marshes  
 9B Vegetated low banks  
 3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Oct-Feb	
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Birds	waterfowl		Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Southern California	FE	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	California grunion		Mar-Aug	

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	After Hours/Emergency	City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation	(805) 963-4286
E	Main Number/	City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation	(805) 564-5418
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
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:**

March-August for grunion spawning on the beach. Western snowy plovers winter on the beach from Oct-Feb.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

The lagoon is habitat for Threatened/Endangered fishes and other sensitive species which can be killed or injured by oil, response and clean-up activities. Responders should minimize disturbances in the stream, lagoon, and associated vegetation and avoid trampling oil into the sediments. Protective conditions should be followed by the IC and resource biologists.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

Access and exits to and from beaches are related to tides and beach sand levels- YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH - Plan accordingly.

**Site Strategies:**

**Site Validation Level: II**

**Strategy: 4-672.1 Objective:** Exclude Oil

*Strategy:* Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration that forms an adjustable oil collection pocket that can accommodate changes in flow direction. Back exclusion booms with sorbent booms to minimize leakage. Line the shorelines and any side channels within the inlet to prevent collateral oiling. If there is recoverable oil on-water, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms as needed to maintain effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			400	feet	
Boom	Sorbent Boom			400	feet	
Anchor				8		
Staff				8		

**Strategy: 4-672.2 Objective:** Shoreline Pre-Clean: Resource Specialist Supervision Required

*Strategy:* Shoreline Precleaning - Consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Hand crews move and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials above high-tide lines. Dispose of trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past. If heavy equipment is required for this operation, request trustee consultation and IC for authorization.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Staff				8		
Misc.	Trash Bags					

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From southbound U.S. 101 take Castillo St. exit South, turn left on Cabrillo Blvd., East Beach area begins east of Stearns Wharf. Parking lots all along the beach. Area may also be accessed from northbound U.S. 101 take Cabrillo exit toward ocean; Andree Clark Lagoon is just seaward of freeway.

*Land Access:* Contact the City of Santa Barbara to access beaches. Parking lots between Cabrillo Blvd and the beach have parking kiosks, when entering and exiting, inform the attendant you are responding to a spill on the local beach. Most beach parking lots have an access ramp to beach suitable for all vehicles and heavy equipment.

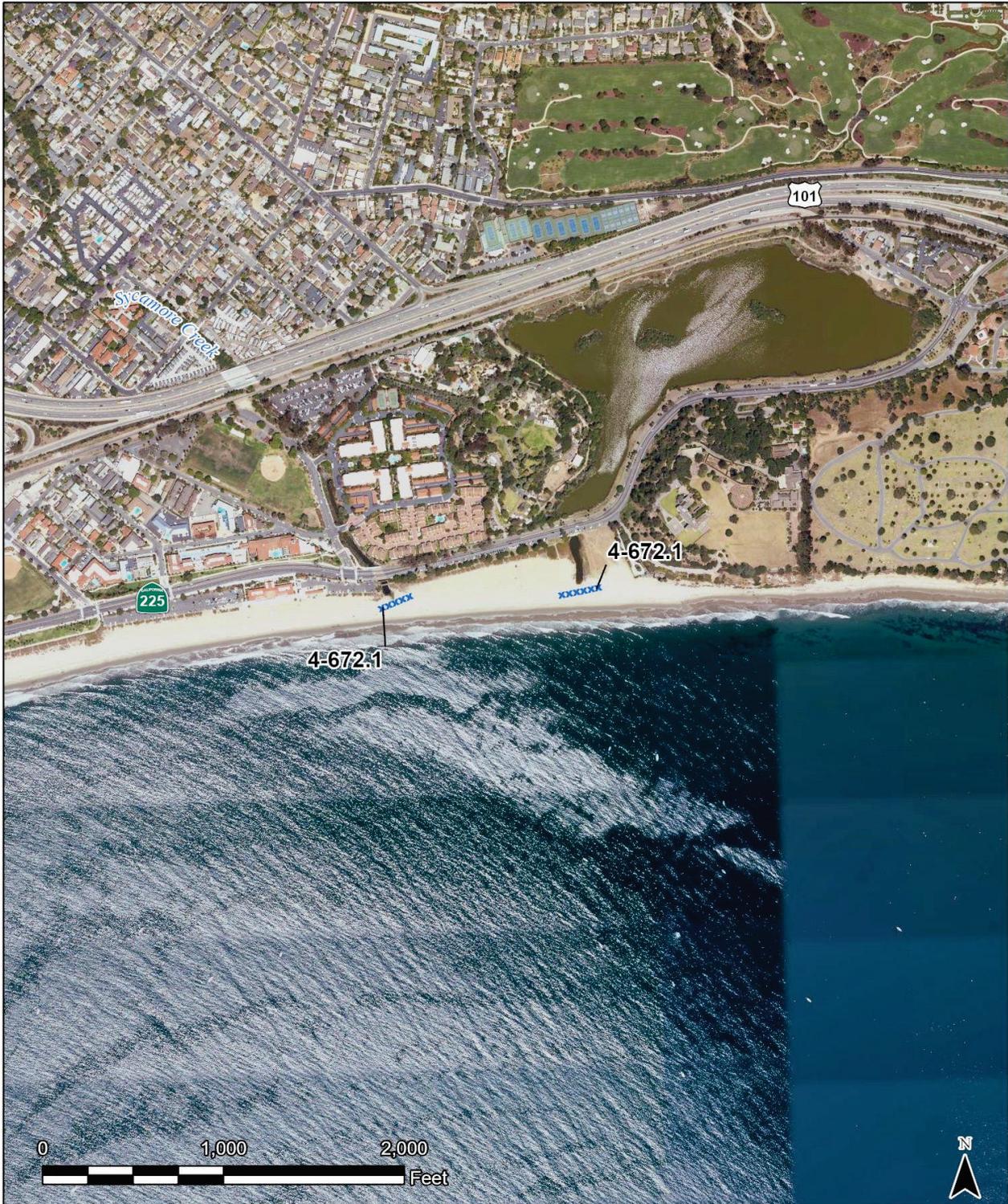
*On-Water Limitations:* Santa Barbara Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor for full-service berthing, launching and fueling.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Access and staging areas at various parking lots. Public restrooms, boat and diving supplies, restaurants, and hotels onsite or nearby. The City of Santa Barbara Parks Maintenance division has heavy equipment. Field Command Post at Santa Barbara Harbor or USCG office. Santa Barbara airport is nearby.

*Communications Problems:* none

*Additional Operational Comments:* Due to the probable occurrence of western snowy plovers and/or California least

terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.



CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-672 Name: Sycamore Creek & Andree Clark Bird Refuge

A. Caputo (OSPR) & J. Gold (OSPR) Date: 1/4/2024

 Swamp Boom