

4-025 -A Site Summary- Arroyo Del Oso Creek Inlet**4-025 -A**

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Piedras Blancas**

Thomas Guide Location
 324 F-5
 NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Latitude N
 35.68581
 Longitude W
 121.28704

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division A map. Arroyo Del Oso Creek Inlet is a small intermittent creek with a culvert under Hwy 1. Small salt marsh fronted by sandy beach. Beach is Hearst San Simeon State Park property and offshore is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Sea Otter Game Refuge, and Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round. Tidewater goby (designated critical habitat) peak nesting season in estuary sediments is April-July. Red-legged frog peak breeding season is Nov-April.

Throughout Division A, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat); and leatherback sea turtles (endangered, designated critical habitat) most commonly observed Aug - Nov; sea otters (pup Jan. - March) are common offshore.

Peak bird nesting is from March-September.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Tidewater goby (federally endangered species), red legged frogs (federally threatened), and western pond turtles (species of special concern) can be found in this creek.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Contact SHPO and Native American Heritage Commission

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E/T	District Office	State Parks & Recreation Dept.	(805) 927-2065
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
T	Mike Harris Sea otter expert	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 772-1135
O	Brian Hatfield Marine mammal expert	Bio Res Div. USGS	(805) 927-3893
T	Scott Kathey Regulatory Coordinator	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4251
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
C	Larry Meyer	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3712
T	Becky Ota	CDFW for MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
T	Carolyn Skinder Biologist	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 927-2145
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
T	Steve Wertz	CDFW for MPAs	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-025 -A Site Strategy - Arroyo Del Oso Creek Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location
324 F-5 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Fish Disturbance - Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies 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. Any anchors deployed in water should be placed in waters greater than 4 feet deep to avoid crushing tidewater goby burrows. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush. If creek conditions allow, boom deployment and recovery will be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position the boom (and fence posts on the bank) to reduce disturbance.

Seabirds, in most cases, no spill response activities should take place within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds.

Marine mammals, try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and if approached closely by a marine mammal while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral; do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel.

Sea turtles, if approached closely by a sea turtle while motoring, reduce speed and shift to neutral. Do not engage props until the animals are observed at the surface, clear of the vessel.

Wetland/riparian Habitat – Mud flats, marshlands, and creeks contain fragile habitat subject to damage from human activities such as walking and vehicle use. Oil can be trampled into sediments by responders where it will not be recoverable. Avoid walking in mudflats, marshy areas, and riparian habitat/waterways whenever possible. Use skiffs to access response sites if conditions permit. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland areas to access cleanup sites, restrict the number and size of pathways. Mark authorized pathways with flagging or tape. Place temporary ramps (e.g. plywood sheets) in sensitive marshy areas where heavy use is expected.

Sensitive Biota - sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals, black abalone may be present on rocky intertidal habitat.

SHORELINE PRE-CLEANING may be warranted before oil reaches the beach when the shoreline is covered with kelp, driftwood, etc which could become oiled and create more oiled waste. Consult with trustees prior to engaging in activities on shoreline. Move unoiled vegetation, driftwood, etc. above the high tide line. When the shoreline is narrow, un-oiled debris may need to be stockpiled elsewhere. It is suggested that photos be taken to document distribution of beach debris prior to collection so that it can be replaced to its pre-spill distribution when spill cleanup is complete. Pre-cleaning of shorelines should be conducted by hand crews to the greatest practical extent to minimize disturbance to wildlife and their habitats.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Operations should be conducted with advice and cooperation of Dept. of Fish and Game and USFWS. Beach is State Park; offshore is within the Monterey Bay National Marine sanctuary, Sea Otter Game Refuge and Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-025.1 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with berming or sandbags.

-When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm (fine to medium grained sand), and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. To create protective berm take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. When erosion from waves or overflows could erode berm, armor berm and banks by covering with plastic sheeting anchored by sandbags. When overflow could occur due to accumulation of water behind the containment berm install underflow piping and/or a spillway in the berm. When overwash could bring oil into inlet over berm back exclusion/containment berm with containment and/or sorbent booms and/or snare. Regular monitoring and maintenance will be necessary (2 staff twice daily). Check for berm effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom position and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary. When creek mouth is open block entrance of creek with sediment dike. Install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Dam can be covered with plastic to minimize erosion. Avoid taking sand from dunes to create protective berm; take sand from active beach face.

Strategy 4-025.2 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with containment boom.

When creek mouth is open block entrance with a short skirted containment boom at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. When suitable berm materials are unavailable and/or when tidal flows, waterflows, or water depths are too great for berming, install exclusion and protective booms near mouth of Inlet/lagoon using short skirted boom. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. If needed, line river/stream bank, rip-rap, side channels, and sandy beaches within lagoon, seaward of the exclusion/containment booms to restrict oil to open water area of main channel to protect vegetated banks and sensitive areas within the inlet/estuary. Use swamp boom backed by sorbent booms, if waters are shallower, and use harbor boom backed by sorbent booms, when water depths are greater. Check/maintain boom for effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom positioning and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

Strategy 4-025.3 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with fencing.

When creek mouth is closed install excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal washover.

When creek mouth is open use a filter barrier for exclusion/containment – Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 20 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, the spill consists of heavy petroleum, and berming or booming methods are not feasible due to lack of materials or accessibility. Construct a filter barrier across the channel using two parallel rows of metal stakes, upon which construction fencing is fastened. Place permeable sorbent materials such as snare or excelsior, between the two lines of fencing to capture oil. Re-adjust sorbent materials as necessary minimize entrainment and/or leakage and to accommodate flow, tidal, oceanic, and meteorological changes. Replace sorbent materials as necessary to maintain sorbent quality.

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Type	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-025.1								1	SSS		Backhoe or sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	4-6	
4-025.2		100			2			1	SSS			2-4	
4-025.3			100 FF					1	SSS		Excelsior fencing, metal stakes	2-4	

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

From the south, take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. Creek is 1.2 miles north of Piedras Blancas Lighthouse.

From the north, take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N).

LAND ACCESS: Foot and ATV access only, State Park property

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro bay boat launch approx. 40 miles south.

and Services Available:

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

Command Post: U.S. Geologic Survey research facility at the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse, approx. 1 2/10 mile south on Hwy 1. Staging, parking, water, and phones are available. Hotels in San Simeon. State Park's office at Hearst Castle. Airports: SLO county Airport approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min inland. There is private landing strip for small planes north of Hearst Castle Visitor's Center, approx. 15 min. south.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

