4-070 -A Site Summary- Little Pico Creek Inlet

4-070 -A

		Thomas Guide Location	Latitude N	Longitude W
County:	San Luis Obispo	324 G-6	35.63468	121.16301
USGS Quad:	San Simeon	NOAA Chart: Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700		

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division B map. Little Pico Creek Inlet is an intermittent creek with a well developed saltwater marsh with large washover terrace in front of wetland. Fronted by fine to medium grained sandy beach. This is part of Hearst San Simeon State Park property, and within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Sea Otter Game Refuge.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round, peak tidewater goby (critical habitat) nesting in estuary sediments April-July. Steelhead (critical habitat) peak spawning March - July.
Harbor seals are present here year round. Marine mammal pupping season: Harbor seals March-June; sea otters Jan-March.
Throughout Division B, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Also designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles which extends from shore out to 100 miles offshore; most commonly observed Aug - Nov

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Shore and seabirds present year round including least sandpipers, lesser yellow legs, grebes, killdeers, egrets, black phoebes, gulls, marbled godwits, surf scoters, dabbling ducks, western snowy plovers (threatened), and brown pelicans.

Sea otters/kelp beds common offshore.

This creek is designated critical habitat for tidewater goby (endangered) and steelhead trout (threatened). Western pond turtles (species of special concern) may be found.

Near the bridge is the compact cobweb thistle (candidate plant species).

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
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
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	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

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

County and Thomas Guide Location	NOAA CHART	Latitude N	Longitude W
324 G-6 San Luis Obispo	Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700	35.6346	121.16301

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

April-July minimize trampling in estuary sediments due to nesting tidewater gobies and steelhead (critical habitat for both species). 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 on the bank) to reduce disturbance. For Gobies 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.
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. 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.

Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat.

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals. To protect seabirds, limit spill response activities within 1,000 feet of nesting seabirds when possible. Try to remain at least 100 yards away from marine mammals and sea turtles and if approached closely by a marine mammal or 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.

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:
State Park property.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-070.1 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 sand bags. 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.

Strategy 4-070.2 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 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 4-070.3 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with fencing.

When creek mouth is closed consider installing 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 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	Anchoring type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Skimmers Type	Special Equipment or comment No	Special Equipment or comment and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-070.1								1	SSS			Backhoe or sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	4-6	
4-070.2		100			2			1	SSS				2-4	
4-070.3			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 north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Take Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 w to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N). Follow Hwy 1 N approx. 1.5 miles north of San Simeon.
From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Morro Bay exit in san Luis Obispo. Continue on Hwy 1 to site.

LAND ACCESS: Foot path at south end of Little Pico Creek Bridge. No vehicle access

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat launch facility approx. 30 miles south.

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

Staging Area: Vista turnout 2/10 mile south of Little Pico Creek bridge for parking. William R. Hearst State Beach approx. 1.4 miles north has some facilities.
Command Post: Motels in San Simeon is approx. 1.5 miles south; State Park offices at Hearst Castle.
Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles airport is approx. 45 min inland. Private Landing strip is approx. 2 miles north, north of Hearst castle Visitors Center.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:


Little Pico Creek
OCR
0
250
500
1,000
Feet
N
CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 4-070 Name: Little Pico Creek Inlet and Beach
G. White (OSPR) & M. Boggs (OSPR) Date05/08/2014
Harbor Boom
Swamp Boom
Skimmer
Sorbent Boom
Other Boom
Offshore Containment Recovery
Dike or Berm
Filter Fence
Imagery: NAIP 2010 (Summer) 4-Band