

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Cambria**

Thomas Guide Location
 528 D-6
 NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Latitude N
 Longitude W
 121.11995

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division B map. Santa Rosa Creek Inlet, There is small bay/saltwater lagoon landward of spit. Creek fronted by gravel beach. Creek mouth closes intermittently. The geomorphology of this beach, Moonstone Beach, fronting Santa Rosa Creek is highly dynamic ranging from fine-medium grained sand to gravel to mixed sand and gravel. High likely hood for oil to penetrate gravel. There is often a lot of driftwood debris on the beach. State Park property and Santa Rosa Creek is southern boundary of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Within White Rock State Marine Conservation Area MPA [extends from Pico Creek south 6 miles and 1 mile offshore] and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region for fisheries protection.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

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

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 (proposed critical habitat).

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Birds include sandpipers, yellowlegs, gulls, killdeer, egret, marbled godwits, grebes, brown pelicans, and dabbling ducks.

Two -striped garter snakes also utilize this habitat. Southern sea otters/kelp beds common offshore. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

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

Sea otters offshore.

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	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:

4-085 -A Site Strategy - Santa Rosa Creek Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location
528 D-6 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

4-085 -A
Latitude N Longitude W
121.11995

Last Page Update :	5/1/2014
--------------------	----------

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Burial and penetration is a concern with the course grained/gravel beach.

Fish Disturbance - Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies especially April-July, goby nesting season and peak steelhead spawning (critical habitat for steelhead). 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. 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.

Red-legged frog breeding November-April, minimize trampling estuary vegetation.

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 and Santa Rosa Creek is southern boundary of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Within White Rock State Marine Conservation Area MPA [extends from Pico Creek south 6 miles and 1 mile offshore] for fisheries protection.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-085.1 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with berm 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.

Strategy 4-085.2 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. Deploy exclusion/containment boom across mouth of lagoon to minimize likelihood of oiling estuary. 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 4-085.3 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 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
4-085.1								1	SSS		Backhoe or sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	4-6	
4-085.2		300			2			1	SSS			2-4	
4-085.3			300 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). Turn left onto Windsor Blvd. (north Cambria). Turn right onto Moonstone Beach Dr. to State Park.

From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to San Luis Obispo, take Hwy 1, Morro Bay exit. Drive north on Hwy 1 then continue as above.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access only.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat ramp (approx. 18 miles south).

and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: State Park parking lot or Shamel County Park (large parking area).

Command Post: State. Parks and Rec. Office at Hearst Castle. Hotels in Cambria.

Airports: SLO County Airport is located 40 min. south, Paso Robles Airport is located 45 min inland. Private landing strip is located 6 miles north, north of the Hearst castle visitors center.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

