

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

Thomas Guide Location  
 590 J-2  
 NOAA Chart: **Estero Bay 18703**

Latitude N  
 35.44940  
 Longitude W  
 120.90718

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

See Division D map. Cayucos Creek Inlet has a minor saltwater marsh landward of bridge. Fine to medium grained sandy beach fronting creek. Cayucos Creek is managed by the County but is a State Beach managed by State Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Creek mouth closes intermittently and is lined by rip rap. This is a popular recreational beach.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Tidewater gobies in Cayucos Creek estuary; goby peak nesting in estuary sediments, April-July. Steelhead (designated critical habitat) peak spawning March-July. Throughout Division D, 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**

Waterfowl include coots, grebes, and egrets are found in the marsh. Shore and seabirds include surf scoters, cormorants, willets, gulls, marbled godwits, sandpipers, and brown pelicans.

Harbor seals haulout on and near this beach. Southern sea otters can be observed offshore.

Tidewater goby (endangered species) and steelhead trout (threatened species), Western pond turtles (species of special concern) are found in low concentrations 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
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	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
E	Dennis Philbin Park Superintendent	SLO County Parks	(805) 781-5930
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

## 4-125 -A Site Strategy - Cayucos Creek Inlet

County and Thomas Guide Location  
590 J-2 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART  
Estero Bay 18703

4-125 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
35.4494 120.90718

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

### CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Fish Disturbance - Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies especially April-July goby nesting season; steelhead peak spawning March-July; 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.

Streamside Vegetation - Minimize disturbance to streamside vegetation.

Wave washover - May carry oil over natural berm into the lagoon during extreme onshore and tidal conditions.

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.

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.

Throughout Division D, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical 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:

Popular recreational beach. State Park property but managed by County Parks.  
Consider lining rip-rap along south side of creek with boom.

### SITE STRATEGIES

#### Strategy 4-125.1 Objective: Exclude oil from getting into creek/estuary with berm or sand bags.

.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 4-125.2 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 and snare 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 4-125.3 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 to 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
4-125.1									1	SSS	Backhoe or sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	4-6	
4-125.2		200			2				1	SSS		4-6	
4-125.3			200 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 N, Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. Take Cayucos Drive exit and follow Cayucos Dr. to the end. (Cayucos Creek mile marker 36.15). Turn right into parking lot.

From the north take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S (or take Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W o Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S), to Cayucos Dr. follow directions above.

**LAND ACCESS:** Vehicle access just south of pier w/ permission

**WATER LOGISTICS:**

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat ramp (approx. 10 miles south)  
and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: Veteran's Memorial Building parking lot at south end of Cayucos. Contact (805) 995-1228 or Chevron Estero Bay Marine Terminal is approx. 4 miles south.

Command Post: Cayucos Veteran's Memorial Building (support services needed, e.g. telephones). U.S. Coast Guard office in Morro Bay, approx. 10 miles south. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo.

Airports: SLO County Airport, approx. 40 miles south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min. inland.

Vehicle beach access: Vehicle access with State Park permission just S. of Pier. Certain times of the year vehicle access may not be possible due to depositional berm or excessive debris from creek flow.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:**

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**

