

4-150 -A Site Summary- Morro Rock Ecological Reserve**4-150 -A**

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Morro Bay South**

Thomas Guide Location
 611 D-6
 NOAA Chart: **Estero Bay 18703**

Latitude N
 35.3694
 Longitude W
 120.8666

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division E map. Morro Rock Ecological Reserve, Morro Bay State Park. Morro Rock is a bird sanctuary. On north side of Morro Rock is Pillar Rock, bird roosting, Coastal National Monument with BLM.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round. Peregrine falcons nest March-April. Cormorants and pigeon guillemots breed spring-summer.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

A breeding pair of peregrine falcons (delisted from endangered Aug. 1999) nests on Morro Rock as well as tufted puffins, cormorants (highest numbers June-Oct.), pigeon guillemots, and western gulls. These species are present year round.

Southern sea otters can be observed offshore and in Morro Bay, as well as harbor seals and California sea lions. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

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
E	Eric Endersby Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Dept	(805) 772-6254
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
O	Steven Goschke Plant Manager	Dynegy Energy Morro Bay Power Plant	(805) 595-4214
O	Adrienne Harris Director	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
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	David Ledig Manager	BLM, Coastal Natl. Monument	(831) 630-5006
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
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
T	James Weigand Ecologist	BLM Coastal Natl. Monument	(916) 978-4656

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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611 D-6 San Luis Obispo

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Oil could get in rip rap and cause re-oiling/sheening seabirds

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.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Power plant water intake is on north side of Morro Rock; contact Dynegy Energy. State Park property. Rough surf. On north side of Morro Rock is Pillar Rock, bird roosting, Coastal National Monument with BLM.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-150.1 Objective: Deflect or exclude oil from impacting the rock and from getting into Morro Bay Harbor.

Table of Response Resources

Offshore containment and recovery (OCR) is the preferred option although heavy surf may hinder these operations. No specific response equipment listed due to the many variables associated with each spill regarding OCR. Early consideration should be given to the use of applied response technologies.

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 No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
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4-150.1

Offshore containment & recovery

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, to Morro Bay Blvd. Exit. Go west to Embarcadero St. which turns into Coleman Dr. Coleman Dr. leads out to Morro Rock, the Ecological Preserve.

From the north: Take 101 S (or 5 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S) to Main St. exit, turn right. Right onto Beach St. to Embarcadero, turn right. Continue as above.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access to base of rock.

WATER LOGISTICS: High swells limit access through mouth harbor

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay Boat ramp, down Embarcadero Street.

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

Staging Area: Coleman parking area; Dynegy Energy Facility.

Command Post: U.S Coast Guard office in Morro Bay or CDFW office in San Luis Obispo.

Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min, south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 30 min. inland.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

