

4-235 -A Site Summary- Sweet Springs Marsh

4-235 -A

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

Thomas Guide Location
 631 G-5
 NOAA Chart: **Estero Bay 18703**

Latitude N 35.32218
 Longitude W 120.84308

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division F map. Sweet Springs Marsh, is in the back bay of Morro Bay. This property is owned and managed by the Audubon Society, Morro Coast Chapter. There are two freshwater spring-fed ponds. The lower pond can be influenced by saltwater through a small inlet. Morro Bay is also designated as the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region.

Morro Bay has large expanse of salt marshes, tidal flats, and eel grass beds, one of the most extensive in California. Morro Bay is utilized by over 40 special, threatened, or endangered species. Morro Bay is an integral part of the Pacific Flyway. Hundreds of shore birds, waders, waterfowl and seabirds.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern found at Sweet Springs Marsh are year round residents. Western pond turtles nest April-August and females may leave the water to lay eggs. Red legged frogs breed Nov-April. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

California red-legged frogs (federally threatened) and western pond turtles (species of special concern) utilize the two freshwater spring-fed ponds. Saltmarsh Bird's-Beak is an endangered plant species in the area.

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	Adrienne Harris Director	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
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
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000
E/T	Dispatch State Parks	State Dept. Parks and Recreation	(951) 443-2969
O	Mike Stiles President	Audubon Society, Morro Coast Chapter.	(805) 215-3165
O	Cory Wadley Chief	U.S. Coast Guard Morro Bay Station	(805) 772-2167
T	Steve Wertz	CDFW for MPAs	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-235 -A Site Strategy - Sweet Springs Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location
631 G-5 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Wetland Habitat – Mud flats and marshlands 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 and marshy areas of wetlands and 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.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Poison oak along hiking path. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, State Dept. Parks and Rec. and Audubon Society, Morro Coast Chapter should be consulted before staging equipment and heavy traffic area permitted.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-235.1 Objective: Exclude oil from entering inlet and pond.

Access by foot only due to environmental sensitivity. Limit traffic to existing foot path and along shoreline. Place sandbag dike in channels above high tide line. Install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Avoid taking sand from vegetated dunes 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.

Other materials should be considered at the time (based on water flow, currents, etc...), excelsior fencing, sweep boom, or hay bales should be considered.

Strategy 4-235.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering inlet and pond.

Access by foot only due to environmental sensitivity. Limit traffic to existing foot path and along shoreline.

Place short skirted containment boom across small channel inlets above high tide line.

Other booming material could be considered based on conditions at the time (based on flow, currents, etc...) e.g. excelsior fencing, sweep boom, sorbent boom, or hay bales should also be considered.

Check/maintain boom for effectiveness and integrity, overwash, and leakage problems, boom positioning and security, and sorbent replacement as necessary.

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
4-235.1							1	SSS	Sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	4	
4-235.2		150					1	SSS	Fence posts.	4	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 Los Osos Valley Rd. (LOVR) exit, just south of San Luis Obispo. Take LOVR for approx. 10 miles to 9th St., turn right on 9th St to Romona Ave., turn left on Romona Ave. Access is off Romona Ave.

From the north take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S) to South Bay Blvd. (Los Osos/Baywood Park exit). Stay on South Bay Blvd. (it veers to the left, go over two bridges) to Santa Ysabel Ave., turn right on Santa Ysabel to 7th St., turn left on 7th St., to Romona Ave., turn right on Romona. Access is off Romona Ave.

LAND ACCESS: Foot access only, use existing foot path to shoreline.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Morro Bay boat launch facility.

and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: The street parking area.

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

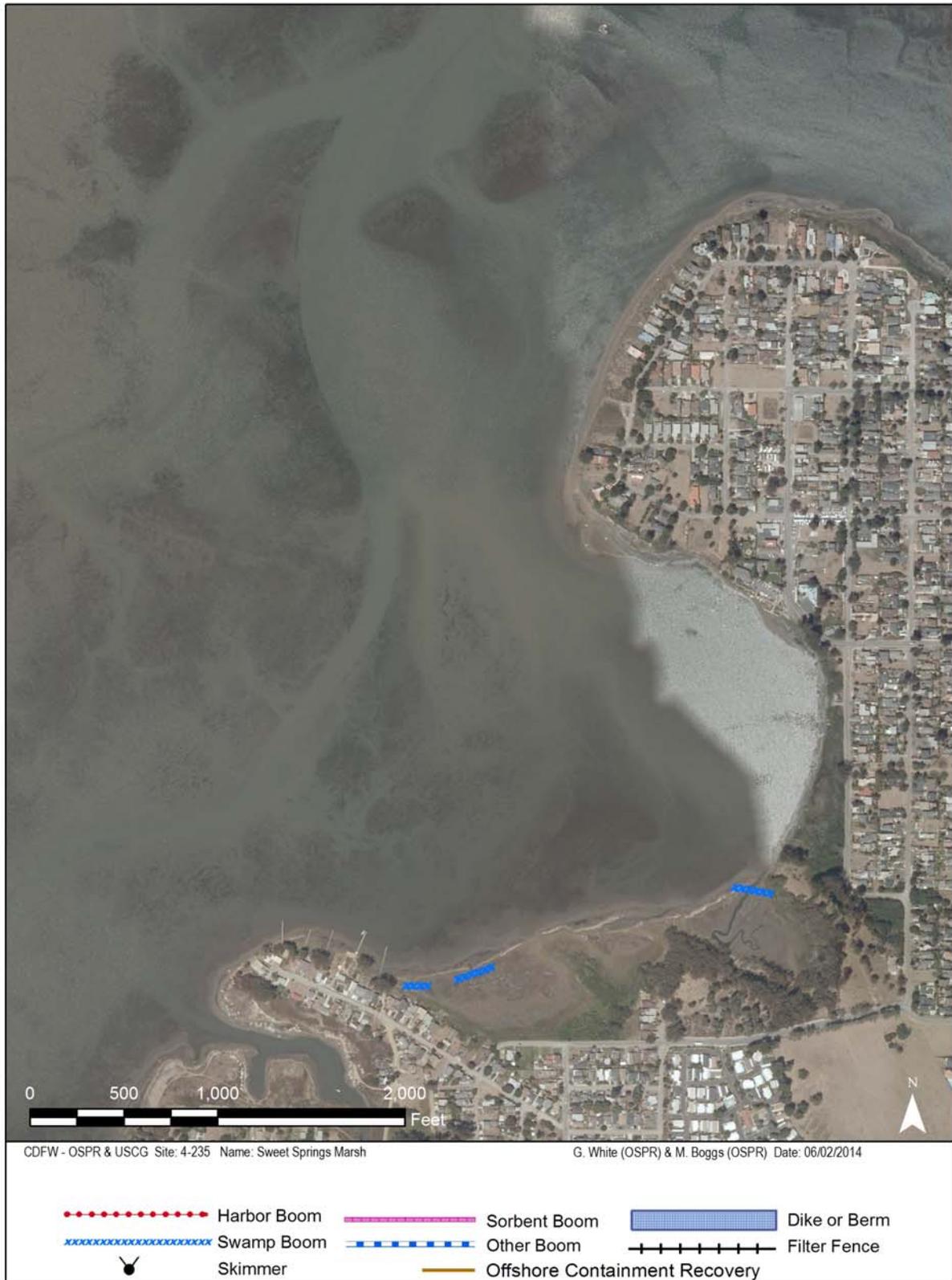
Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

4-235 -A Strategy Diagram- Sweet Springs Marsh

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Imagery: NAIP 2010 (Summer) 4-Band