4-340 -A Site Summary- San Luis Obispo Creek Inlet

4-340 -A

		Thomas Guide Location	Latitude N	Longitude W
County:	San Luis Obispo	693 A-4	35.16573	120.73667
USGS Quad:	Pismo Beach	NOAA Chart: San Luis Bay 18704		

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division I map. San Luis Obispo Creek Inlet, fronted by Avila Beach (medium to course grained sandy beach). Creek mouth inlet is approx. 75' across. There is a fringing marsh, a tidal flat area, and a small lagoon under bridge. This is a very popular recreational beach. Rip rap and mud flat on east side of creek approx. 300' upstream of creek mouth. A mixed sand and gravel beach and rocky platform on west side of creek.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round, except for Red-Necked Grebes present in winter. Steelhead (designated critical habitat) peak spawning March - July. Red-Legged frogs breed Nov.-March. Tidewater Goby peak nesting in estuary sediments is April-May.
Throughout Division I, black abalone (endangered) may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Abundant shorebirds including gulls, Terns, Sandpipers, Killdeer, Coots, Western Grebes, Whimbrels, Egrets, Mallards, Herons, and Red-Necked Grebes. Seabirds include cormorants, belted Kingfisher, and the endangered Brown Pelican. Western snowy plovers (threatened species) utilize this beach.

Southern Sea Otters can be observed offshore.

In San Luis Obispo Creek, the endangered species Tidewater Goby and Steelhead Trout (threatened species) are present. Southwestern Pond Turtles (candidate species), and Red-Legged Frogs (federally threatened) may also be found here.

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
T	Melissa Boggs Environmental Scientist	CDFW-OSPR	(805) 558-1005
C	Lynn Gamble Historic Info Center	SHPO/UCSB	(805) 893-7341
O	Brian Johnson Live fish market	B&J Enterprises	(805) 680-5143
T	Jenny Marrek Biologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(805) 644-1766
O	Steve McGrath Harbor Manager	Port San Luis Harbor	(805) 595-5400
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

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

County and Thomas Guide Location	NOAA CHART	Latitude N	Longitude W
693 A-4 San Luis Obispo	San Luis Bay 18704	35.1657	120.73667

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Nov-March minimize trampling estuary/creek vegetation due to frog breeding. Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies especially April-July goby nesting season. Peak steelhead (critical habitat) spawning March - July. 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. Minimize disturbance to streamside 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.

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

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:

Avila Beach is under the Harbor District's Jurisdiction. This is a highly used recreational beach. Live fish markets with water intakes on Hartford Pier.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-340.1 Objective: Deflect/exclude oil from entering creek.

- For winter or high flows, when creek mouth is open, High flow-deflection booming to deflect oil onto sandy beaches on either and or both sides of creek. Suggest 1,000 ft of 12" to 20 " containment boom can be walked across creek or can use small boat to tow containment boom across. May need to get permission from Avila Beach Resort Golf Course along west creek bank, (805) 595-2307. Boom at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences. Deploy exclusion/containment boom across mouth of lagoon to minimize likelihood of oiling estuary. Install boom in a configuration 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 4-340.2 Objective: Exclude oil from entering creek.

During summer or low flow, when creek mouth is open block entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm (fine to medium grained sand), and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. 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 underflow pipes are installed, prevent entrainment of oil in vortices by anchoring containment and sorbent booms upstream of the pipe intake, venting the pipes, beveling inlets, or placing beach balls over the vortices. 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 4-340.3 Objective: Exclude oil from creek/estuary.

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 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	Anchoring type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Skimmers Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-340.1	1000				2			1	1	SSS		6	
4-340.2									1	SSS	Backhoe or sandbags, piping, plastic sheeting	6	
4-340.3			400 FF						1	SSS	Excelsior fencing, metal stakes	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 Avila Beach Dr. exit. Take Avila Beach Dr. to the end to Port San Luis parking area. From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 101 S), to Avila Beach exit San Luis Bay DR. Take San Luis Bay Dr. to stop sign, turn right on Avila Beach Dr. follow directions above.

LAND ACCESS: Vehicle/ATV access possible w/ Harbor Dept. permission

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Port San Luis boat launch.

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

Staging Area: Port San Luis Harbor District parking lot.
Command Post: Port San Luis Harbor District. CDFW office in San Luis Obispo.
Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 15 min.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:


San Luis Obispo Creek
4-340.1
0
250
500
1,000
Feet
N
CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: Name:
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