

4-445 -A Site Summary- Guadalupe Oil Field**4-445 -A**

County: **San Luis Obispo**
 USGS Quad: **Point Sal**

Thomas Guide Location
 774 B-4

Latitude N
 34.9810

Longitude W
 120.6459

NOAA Chart: **Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700**

Last Page Update : 5/1/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

See Division J map. Fine to medium grained sandy beach just north of the Santa Maria River and just south of the Guadalupe-Nipomo National Wildlife Refuge (site 440). Site of the former Guadalupe Oil Field, owned by Chevron. This is a high energy beach.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Species of concern are present year round. Western Snowy Plover nest March-Sept. California Least Tern nest April -September. Over-wintering during the non-nesting months of October to March adult Snowy plovers may continue to utilize beach habitats. Adult Least terns migrate south. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Snowy plovers (federal Threatened listing) are small, white and tan colored shore birds. Least terns (state and federal Endangered listing) are small, gull-like, gray, white and black colored diving birds. Snowy plovers tend to nest in the rack line of the high-high tide, while Least terns generally tend to nest in dune areas slightly farther from the shoreline. Nests are usually constructed on loose sand, and are easily stepped on due to their very cryptic nature. Chicks are known to run between nests and the waterline thereby potentially becoming oiled by floating, or stranded product. Chicks and eggs are vulnerable to oil transfer from adults.

Snowy plover adults forage while wading along the shoreline. Least tern adults dive into the water to forage in shallow, nearshore areas of the open coast, embayments, estuaries, and dune lakes.

California least terns (endangered), and western snowy plovers (threatened) nest on this beach. Other seabirds and shorebirds include brown pelicans, surf scoters, loons, grebes, willets, sanderlings, etc.

Southern sea otters, harbor seals, pacific bottlenose dolphin, and California sea lions can be observed offshore. Dune species of concern California horned lizard, and the silvery legless lizard.

Red-legged frogs are found in the estuaries through out the oil field.

Some sensitive dune plant species of concern include crisp monardella, beach spectacle pod, dunedelion and la graciosa thistle near wetlands.

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
E	Carri Douglass Guadalupe Oil Field Mgr.	Chevron	(805) 343-0836
T	Nancy Frost Ca Least Tern Breeding	CDFW	(858) 467-4208
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
C	SHPO	State Office of Historic Preservation	(916) 445-7000

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

4-445 -A Site Strategy - Guadalupe Oil Field

County and Thomas Guide Location
774 B-4 San Luis Obispo

NOAA CHART
Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception 18700

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

PRIMARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: During nesting season, March-September, to aid in avoiding damage to nests, consider delineation of nesting areas and designate responder "pathways" with flagging or tape. Nests and critical habitat protection areas will require oversight by natural resource specialist prior to response effort execution. All responders should be briefed on procedures for avoiding birds and nest sites to aid in minimizing damage to nest sites and associated wildlife. Oil spill response and cleanup activity should be limited to locations below high tide line unless otherwise authorized by trustee agency specialist, or designee (biological monitor). The area to be protected will be monitored by an assigned biological monitor. Oil removal will be conducted by hand crews unless other methods are recommended by the biological monitor. Pre-clean the beach and stockpile kelp and surfgrass rack in designated areas for re-distribution after response efforts are completed. A staging area will be determined as most suitable for response and natural resource protection. Travel on beach should be restricted to the wet sand as much as possible; vehicle traffic should be operated at slow enough speeds to avoid/minimize impacts to wildlife (15 MPH); if possible avoid driving over wrack.

SECONDARY PLOVER PROTECTION STRATEGY: At the discretion of the biological monitor, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snowy plover or least tern eggs may be removed from nest's by authorized and qualified personnel to an approved facility to avoid injury. This determination will be made on-site utilizing oil trajectory and oil impact timing information.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Dune Habitats – Minimize mechanical and human activities in vegetated dune habitat.

Sensitive Biota - Nearshore waters include sensitive rafting areas for birds, sea otters, and other marine mammals. To protect seabirds offshore, 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:

Dept. of Fish and Game and USFWS should be consulted before staging motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-445.1 Objective: Deflect/exclude oil from this beach.

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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4-445.1

Offshore containment & recovery

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

From the north: Take Hwy 101 S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 101 S) to Halcyon Rd. exit in Arroyo Grande and go straight (south) to Hwy 1 (Cienega St. which turns into Mesa View Dr.), turn right (south) on Hwy 1. Continue on Hwy 1 for approx. 8 miles to Thornberry Rd., turn right to the Chevron gate, approx. 1 mile.

From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 166 W (main St) exit in Santa Maria. Continue on Hwy 166 to Hwy 1 N (Cabrillo Hwy), turn right on Hwy 1. Continue on Hwy 1 to first left past the Santa Maria River Bridge, Thornberry Rd. Chevron Gate is approx. 1 mile down Thornberry Rd.

LAND ACCESS: ATV or 4-wheel drive possible with access permission from Chevron.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking Port San Luis Harbor is approx. 40 miles north.
and Services Available:

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

Staging Area: Guadalupe Oil Field.

Command Post: Guadalupe Oil Field office; CDFW office in San Luis Obispo.

Airports: San Luis Obispo County Airport, approx. 45 min. north. Oceano Airport for small planes, approx. 15 miles north.
Santa Maria Airport approx. 15 miles south east.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

