

**4-550 -A Site Summary- Ocean (Wall and Surf) Beach****4-550 -A**

County: **Santa Barbara**  
 USGS Quad: **Surf**

Thomas Guide Location  
 365 C x 2-4  
 NOAA Chart: **18700**

Latitude N Longitude W  
 34.68444 120.60345

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014
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**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION D. Special Permission required for access via Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). This is an approximately 6 mile long stretch of beach. North of the Santa Ynez River is "Wall Beach" and south of the Santa Ynez River is known as Surf Beach. These are wide, open coastal unprotected medium grain sand beaches, with principal access limited primarily to a foot trail along the south bank of the Santa Ynez River and on the north side of the Santa Ynez River at Wall Beach. Vandenberg State Marine Reserve is offshore of this site. Leatherback turtle critical habitat.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

During the period from March 1 through September is the nesting period for Western snowy plovers and California least terns.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Dune habitats and associated biota along the upper beach are vulnerable to damage from trampling, vehicular traffic and heavy equipment activities. The Santa Ynez River mouth and lagoon, located at Surf contain vulnerable coastal wetland and river bottom habitats (See 4-540 for details)

California least terns (SE/FE) nesting in sand dunes, and Western snowy plovers (FT) nesting in upper beach.  
 Southern sea otters

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist on VAFB, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting Ryan Christopher, Chief Cultural Resources VAFB (805) 605-0748, Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Central Coast Archeological Information Center (805) 893-7341.

**KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)**

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E	George Croll Environmental Compliance	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-4749
E	Tom Devenoge Wildlife Biologist	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 605-2015
O	Emergency Command Post	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-9961
E	Rhys Evans Biologist (Birds and Otters)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-4198
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
E	Fish and Game Office (Access, ATV, Guides)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-6804
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
T	Mike Harris Marine Biologist	CDFW - OSPR (Marine Mammals & Sea Otters)	(831) 212-7090
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
E	Law Enforcement Desk (24hrs)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3911
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
E	Operator	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-1110
T	Becky Ota Marine Conservation Manager	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(650) 631-6789
E	Edward Panas Chief Game Warden	Vandenberg AFB (Wildlife Protection)	(805) 606-6804
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
O	Public Affairs (Media Events)	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3595
E	Rangeland Manager	Vandenberg AFB (Access to range lands)	(805) 606-3271
E	Christopher Ryan Chief Cultural Resources	Vandenberg AFB (Cultural Resources)	(805) 605-0748
E	Santa Barbara County Parks Department	Santa Barbara County	(805) 568-2461
T	Steve Wertz Senior Environmental Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

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County and Thomas Guide Location  
365 C x 2-4 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART  
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## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threat from marine source. The best response options for protecting this shoreline are to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore areas before it reaches inshore areas and to pre-clean debris from beaches. Should oiling occur, cleanup oiled shorelines. The dunes and upper beaches provide critical nesting habitat for Threatened/Endangered birds. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand, and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

Special Permission required for access via Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info).

A. Water Contamination - Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in the Santa Barbara County area. Check with the Santa Barbara Ocean Quality Hotline, 805-681-4949, regarding health conditions prior to engaging in any activities which would require direct water contact. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

B. Safety Considerations- Roads, trails, beach cliffs and hillsides may be unstable in wet weather. Beware of flashfloods in canyons during rainy weather, ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes. Beware of trains at unregulated Railroad Crossings. Care must be taken when working on beaches backed by high cliffs. Safe entries to, and exits from beaches in this area are related to tides and beach sand levels- YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH - Plan accordingly.

## SITE STRATEGIES

Onshore response strategies for protecting onshore and nearshore resources in this area are extremely limited. Whenever possible, attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline.

Strategy 4-550.1 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of wrack, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Shoreline Precleaning - Consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Hand crews to move and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials above high-tide line. Dispose of trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past. If heavy equipment is required for this operation, request trustee consultation and IC for authorization.

## Table of Response Resources

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
4-550.1											202 1- Vehicle (4wd), 200 Trash Bags, 1 Hand Tools	5	

## LOGISTICS

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

From Lompoc, take Hwy. 246 (Ocean ave) west approx. 10 miles to Ocean Beach County Park entrance. Small boats can be launched into the lagoon from the parking lot. Foot traffic only, vehicular access to beach from the Surf parking lot is restricted to ATVs only. Vehicles (4-wd and heavy equipment) may access beach approx. 1 mile north of the Santa Ynez River on VAFB property from the "Wall Beach" parking lot. During dry periods, when the mouth of the Santa Ynez river is closed, approximately 6 miles of Ocean and Wall beaches are accessible from this point.

**LAND ACCESS:** This site is located on Vandenberg Airforce Base. Access to beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Air Force Base. For access authorization to air base roadways, lands and shorelines responders must call the Law Enforcement Desk @ 805-606-3911 and the Fish and Wildlife Office @ 805-606-6804. An escort may be required in some locations.

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Area is rocky.  
 Limitations: depth, obstruction  
 Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading occur at the "Boat House" in the vicinity of Rocky Pt. just south of Pt Arguello. These facilities could be utilized with permission from VAFB. Area is rocky.

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

Wall Beach - Staging areas for heavy equip't etc w/access to Wall beach only when SY River is flowing. When river not flowing access to entire 7 miles of coast. Access and Staging area for ATVs at Surf Beach parking lot.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** Cell phone communications are limited.

## ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

Due to the probable occurrence of Snowy plovers and/or Least terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.

