

County: **Santa Barbara**
 USGS Quad: **Tranquillon Mountain**

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

Latitude N Longitude W
 34.611667 120.613333

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION E. Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). La Honda creek lies approx. 0.3 mi north of Pt. Pedernales and is accessible from the south side of the lagoon only. It is a relatively narrow creek with a small coastal lagoon and wetland. The mouth opens onto a pocket beach of medium to coarse-grained sand. To the north are steep dunes and to the south are steep cliffs. Very heavy surf conditions occur along this section of coast. Vandenberg State Marine Reserve is offshore of this site.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Whenever the creek mouth is open to the ocean - most likely during winter, depending on rainfall.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Lagoon, coastal wetland and associated biota are sensitive year around

Various waterfowl and wading birds.

Southern sea otters may occur in this area.

Tidewater gobies found in estuary

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
T	Steve Wertz Senior Environmental Scientist	CDFW Marine Protected Areas Program	(562) 342-7184

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

1. RPI-ESI MAPS (CENTRAL COAST ATLAS)
2. COASTAL INLET PROTECTION FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE (DFG, MSRC)
3. INVENTORY OF COASTAL WETLANDS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, R. AMBROSE. 1993.

CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

The primary spill threat is from a marine source. The primary objectives are to exclude oil from lagoon, pre-clean debris, and clean-up oil from impacted shorelines. The lagoon is habitat for an endangered fish and other sensitive species. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil response and cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in stream, lagoon, and associated vegetation.

Avoid trampling oil into sediments and follow protective conditions from Incident Command and resource biologists.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

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

NOTE: Beach sand is often too soft to support vehicular traffic.

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 personal protective equipment, 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 flash floods 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

Strategy 4-555.1 Objective: Berming - Prevent oil from contaminating the inlet when it is subject to tidal influence, low flows are present, and/or wave washover could occur if berm materials are present.

Berming - First, consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Build a berm across the mouth of the inlet using onsite materials obtained from unvegetated areas below the high tide line to minimize damage to wildlife and habitat. Install under flow pipes in the berm to allow through flows and/or a spillway with a filter barrier to accommodate flow increases as weather conditions dictate. Cover the berm with sheet plastic to minimize erosion. Second, back the berm with swamp and sorbent booms to prevent contamination from entrainment, leakage and or washover. If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor berm and associated features to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-555.2 Objective: Booming - Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet entrance to protect sensitive species and habitats when suitable berm building materials are unavailable, water flows are too great, or water depths are too great for berming.

Booming - Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration which forms an oil collection pocket which can be adjusted to accommodate changes in flow direction. Back exclusion booms with sorbent booms to minimize leakage. Line the shorelines and any side channels within the inlet to prevent collateral oiling. If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms at least 2 x per day to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-555.3 Objective: Sandbag Dams - Build a sandbag dam to prevent oil from polluting unoiled areas.

Sandbag Dams - Build a sandbag exclusion/containment dam using onsite materials or imported materials as directed by DFG biologist. Use clean low silt content sand. If using onsite materials obtain only from unvegetated areas. Install underflow pipes and/or a spillway to regulate water flows as conditions dictate. Closely regulate water levels to reduce collateral oiling.

If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil.

Strategy 4-555.4 Objective: Filter Barrier - Minimize oil contamination in unoiled areas using a filter barrier when berming and booming methods are not feasible.

Filter Barrier - Construct a filter barrier across the channel or inlet when the inlet is narrow, water flows are low, the bottom can receive and hold metal stakes, the spill is heavy oil, and berming or booming methods are not feasible or necessary.

Monitor barrier and replace sorbents as necessary to maintain effectiveness.

Strategy 4-555.5 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 and kinds	comment	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-555.1		200		200	4						45	1 Front End Loader, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 20 Sand Bags, 10 Stakes, 1 Stake Driver, 20' Construction Fencing, 1 Hand Tools	5	2
4-555.2		200		200	2								5	2
4-555.3				200							154	150 Sand Bags, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 1 Hand Tools	5	2
4-555.4			200 Snar								401	200' Construction Fencing, 200 Stakes, 1 Stake Driver, 1 Hand Tools	5	2
4-555.5											102	1- Vehicle (4wd), 100 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.)

Access to the creek mouth is by foot and possibly by all terrain vehicles (ATVs) along a trail at the south end of the site. Sand is soft and may not support larger vehicles.

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:

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS: Cell phone communications are limited.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

