

County: **Santa Barbara**  
 USGS Quad: **Tajiguas**

Thomas Guide Location  
 981 G x 5  
 NOAA Chart: **18721**

Latitude N  
 34.46271  
 Longitude W  
 120.04498

Last Page Update : 4/30/2014

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION K. The Exxon Mobil (EM) facility in Corral/Las Flores Canyons receives oil emulsion from 3 offshore platforms, Heritage, Hondo and Harmony through a 20 inch pipeline. The line crosses the shoreline at El Capitan State Beach, runs north under the RR tracks, US 101, and Calle Real where it turns west and runs 2 miles to the EM plant. The facility has multiple spill safeguards which including berms, offstream containment basins, and a remotely operated instream spill containment structure. Spills are most likely to arise from inland sources with primary injuries to terrestrial and aquatic resources. Should the oil reach the ocean, intertidal habitats and nearshore marine mammals, birds, invertebrates would be at risk.

The principal 'at risk' portion of the site begins ~ 200 yds north of the confluence of Corral and Las Flores Canyon Creeks and extends downstream a distance of 1.3 miles to the ocean. The stream flows over one grade control structure, though an instream spill containment structure, and a culvert under Hwy 101, where it discharges directly onto the beach. The gradient of the stream is ~ 150 feet per mile. From late spring through early winter, stream flows are generally less than 1 mph.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Found or are likely to occur: Mammals - bear, mountain lion, deer, coyote, bobcats, rabbits, California wood rats (State and Fed Sp. Of Special Concern), and western gray squirrel; Birds - raptors (red-tailed hawk, American kestrel), turkey vultures, songbirds (yellow warbler); Reptiles/Amphibians - Southwestern pond turtle (State and Fed Sp. Of Spec. Conc. - Spring through Fall), two striped gartersnake (State Sp. Of Spec. Conc. - Spring through Fall), Red legged Frog (Fed Threatened State Sp of Spec. Conc. - Jan-Sept), California newt (State Sp. Of Spec. Conc.); Fishes - Calif Steelhead trout (Fed Endangered - historical); and Invertebrates - Monarch Butterfly (Oct-Mar) There is no permanent lagoon on the beach.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

During most years this is a perennial stream which supports a dense Sycamore and Willow riparian woodland. The streambed and banks of Corral and Las Flores Creeks are comprised primarily of cobbles and boulders and are subject to deep and persistent penetration and saturation of oil. Area susceptible to oil stranding during decreasing flow regimes.

The primary birds at risk are terrestrial species which rely upon the stream for foraging, water, and/or bathing during the breeding, nesting, and fledging seasons, from March through September. They can be injured by both oiling and cleanup operations. Should pollution reach the ocean intertidal invertebrates and shorebirds could be oiled.

Southwestern pond turtle, Two-stripe garter snake, red-legged frog, coast range newt and Southern sea otters.  
 Steelhead, Arroyo Chub

Extensive eelgrass bed.

Riparian Corridor is characterized by lush California Sycamore and California Live Oak riparian forests. Open areas in the lower canyon by dense stands of willow.

**CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES**

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710 and 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/O	Central Control Plant Operations (24hr)	Exxon Mobil	(805) 961-4055
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

# 4-613 -A Site Strategy - Corral-Las Flores Creeks

County and Thomas Guide Location  
 981 G x 5 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART  
 18721

# 4-613 -A

Latitude N Longitude W  
 34.4627 120.04498

Last Page Update : 4/14/2011

## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threat from inland source. The primary objectives are to minimize oiling of stream, pre-clean debris, clean oil from bed and banks, and block oil from ocean. The stream provides habitat for many sensitive animals including T/E species. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil, response, and cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in stream and associated vegetation; avoid trampling oil into sediments; minimize collateral oiling, and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

## HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

The canyon through which Corral Creek flows, is generally narrow and steep sided and subject to flash flows and landslides in the wet season. Slips, trips and falls (streambanks, debris, algae); heat; dehydration; rattlesnakes; ticks; blackwidow spiders; mosquito bites; poison oak; water hazards

## SITE STRATEGIES

A remotely controlled spill gate is located within Corral Creek to capture oil should it enter the stream.

### Strategy 4-613.1 Objective: Inland Spill - Off water containment - Minimize amount of oil that enters the water.

Offwater Control and Containment - Control, confine, and recover as much of the oil as close to the source of discharge as possible using offstream containment and collection methods, including but not limited to: blocking down-drains and culverts with sand bag dams, sorbents, hay bales, and temporary berms. Use vacuum trucks, and/or sorbents, as appropriate, to recover and remove oil. Dispose contaminants according to waste management plan.

### Strategy 4-613.2 Objective: Activate permanent spill containment basins to minimize oil contamination in downstream areas.

The oil production facility in this watershed has a permanent instream oil spill containment basin. Should an oil spill occur upstream of basin, activate spill containment and collection procedures. 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 basin and associated features to maintain their effectiveness. Additional temporary spill basins may be built if there would be a net environmental benefit to their use. Consult with resource biologist prior to constructing temporary basins.

### Strategy 4-613.3 Objective: Inland Spill - Berming - Minimize oil contamination in downstream areas when flows, habitat, biota, materials, access, and topography are suitable.

Berming - Build a berm(s) across the stream channel using silt free materials or sandbags under the direction of an authorized biologist to minimize damage to wildlife and habitat. Install underflow pipes and a spillway with a filter barrier the berm to allow through flows if water is actively flowing. Cover the berm with sheet plastic to minimize erosion. Place swamp and/or sorbent booms upstream of the containment berm and along the streambanks to prevent downstream contamination from entrainment and/or washover 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 booms and associated features 2 X daily to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

### Strategy 4-613.4 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of vegetation, woody and debris, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Inland waters precleaning - Consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. When oiling of the channel is imminent, remove and store wood, aquatic vegetation, debris, trash, and other materials which could become oiled and create environmental hazards and disposal problems. The use of heavy equipment in the channel is prohibited and pre-cleaning will be conducted by hand crews to minimize disturbance to wildlife and their habitats unless authorized by the IC. Segregate and dispose trash.

## 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
4-613.1											
4-613.2											
4-613.3											
4-613.4								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.)

Exxon Las Flores Plant and Corral Creek - Off US 101, northbound, take El Capitan exit ( Exit 117) on to Calle Real heading west. Approx 0.41 miles from El Capitan exit, turn right on Calle Real (do not return to the freeway). Continue heading west on Calle Real ~1.1 miles to Corral Canyon Rd.; turn right into facility; check in at guardhouse. From US 101 southbound coming from Gaviota, take the Refugio Rd turnoff and turn right onto Calle Real heading east toward Santa Barbara ~ 1.55 miles to Corral Canyon Rd.

## Corral Creek Mouth from Beach

**LAND ACCESS:** Much of the eastern streambank of Corral Creek is accessible by heavy equipment and vehicles from an access road.

**WATER LOGISTICS:** Contact Exxon Mobil for access points along stream corridor

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Santa Barbara Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor for full service berthing, launching and fueling. Response vessels could be loaded and small boats can be launched at Gaviota Pier with permission from State Beaches and Parks. Larger vessels can be loaded at Ellwood Pier with permission from Venoco and at Goleta Pier with permission from Santa Barbara County Parks.

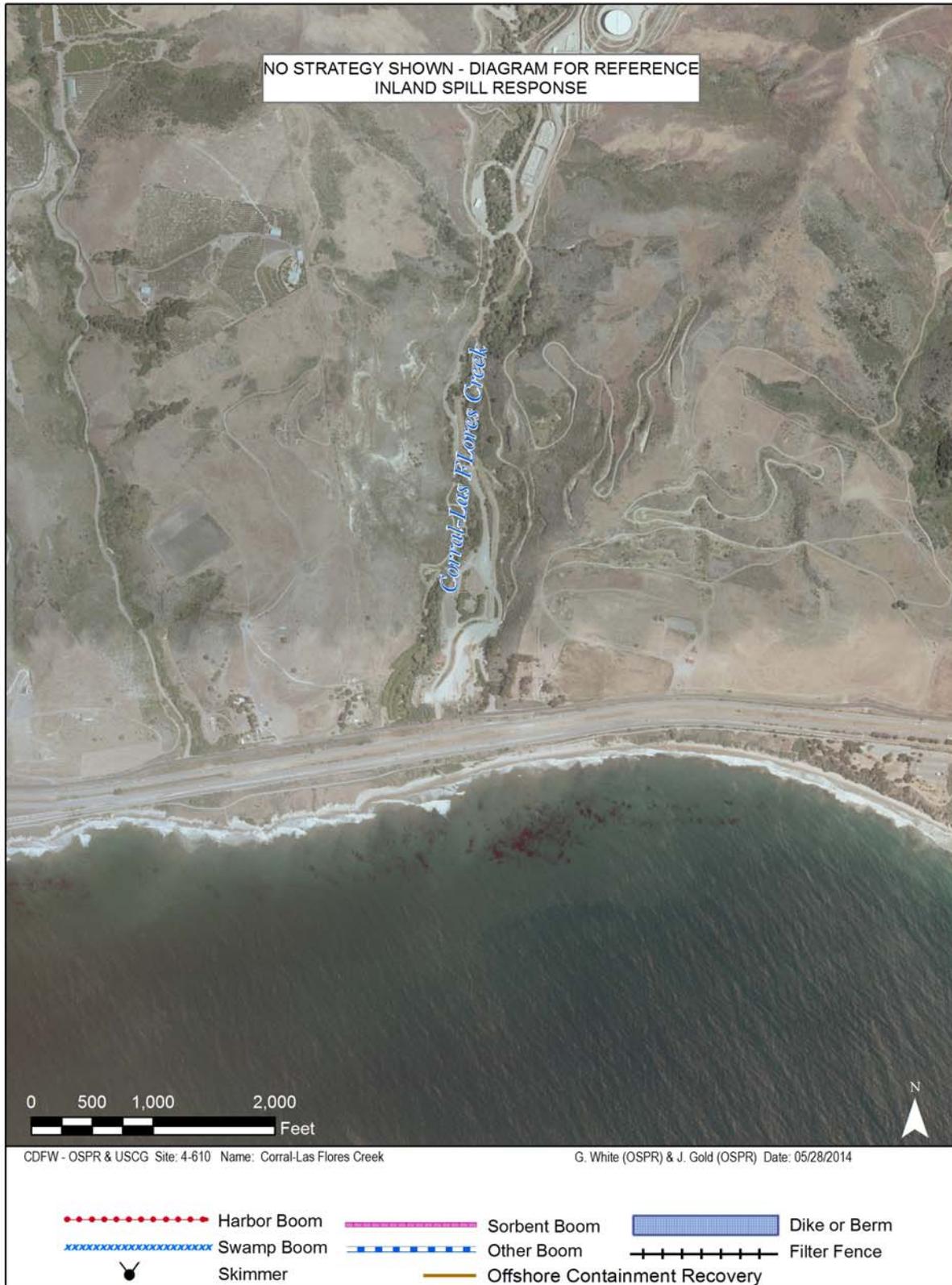
### **FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:**

A command post can be established at the Exxon Mobil plant. There is a remotely operated instream spill containment basin located 0.63 miles north of Calle Real. There is a large parking lot just inside and to the west of the facility gate which is suitable for staging personnel, equipment, and mobile command posts.

Alternatively, for marine spills, staging for command posts, personnel, and equipment could be provided with permission from State Parks in both Refugio and El Capitan State Parks. There is electricity, water, and restrooms available in both parks.

**COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:** There is virtually no cell phone communication in Corral Canyon.

**ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:**



Imagery: NAIP 2010 (Summer) 4-Band