

4-615 -A Site Summary- El Capitan Creek**4-615 -A**County: **Santa Barbara**
USGS Quad: **Tajiguas**Thomas Guide Location
981 D x 5-6
NOAA Chart: **18721**Latitude N Longitude W
34.458333 120.021667

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION K. El Capitan beach state park covers 1.8 miles of shoreline in the vicinity of the creek mouth. El Capitan is a relatively small creek (15-30' wide) that empties out onto a mixed sand, gravel, cobble, boulder point.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Whenever the creek is open (most likely from late fall through early summer, depending on rainfall) wetland biota is at risk.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Terns, Gulls, Brown pelicans, and shorebirds
Red-legged frog and Southern sea otters

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
O	Central Control Plant Operations (24hr)	Exxon Mobil	(805) 961-4055
T	Channel Coast District	California State Parks	(805) 585-1850
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	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REFERENCES: 1. RPI-ESI MAPS SOUTHERN CALIF ATLAS 2. COASTAL INLET PROTECTION FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE (DFG, MSRC)

4-615 -A Site Strategy - El Capitan Creek

County and Thomas Guide Location
981 D x 5-6 Santa Barbara

NOAA CHART
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4-615 -A
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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threat from marine source. The primary objectives are to minimize oiling of stream and lagoon, pre-clean debris, and clean oil from shorelines. The lagoon is habitat for sensitive species. Both habitat and species can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in stream, lagoon, and associated vegetation; avoid trampling oil into sediments; and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

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. Sand surface may be soft. YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH - Plan accordingly.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-615.1 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 4-615.2 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 4-615.3 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 4-615.4 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 and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-615.1		30		40	2				42 1 Front End Loader, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 10 Sand Bags, 15 Stakes (metal), 1 Stake Driver, 10ft Construction Fencing, 1 Hand Tools	2	2
4-615.2				40					60 50 Sand Bags, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 1 Hand Tools, 5 Stakes	5	2
4-615.3			40 snar						482 60 ft Construction Fencing, 16 Stakes (metal), 1 Stake Driver, 1 Hand Tools	5	2
4-615.4									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.)

From US 101 (West of Santa Barbara) exit El Capitan State Beach Park. Access to creek and surrounding beaches is very good (4 wheel drive and possibly excavating equipment)

LAND ACCESS: A. Shoreline Access – Beach access roads may require regrading before vehicles can enter or

exit beaches - contact the landowner for information. Barriers to longshore movement are variable according to tide and sand levels. Area may not be accessible in the winter because dirt roads/rangeland may be muddy.

B. Access to this site is controlled by California State Parks. Call the Channel Coast District Office at 805-585-1850 (between 0800 -1700). To notify State Parks of the need to respond in this area after hours, call 916-358-1300 (24 hour number).

WATER LOGISTICS:

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:

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

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.

