

County: **Santa Barbara**
 USGS Quad: **Carpinteria**

Thomas Guide Location
 998 A-C x 6-7
 NOAA Chart: **18725(a)**

Latitude N Longitude W
 34.396667 119.535

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DIVISION S. Area bounded by Sandyland to the NW and Sandyland Cove to the SW. Carpinteria salt marsh (or El Estero) covers 230 acres. This is one of the few large wetland habitats left in Southern California and supports a wide variety of species. Pickleweed dominates the regularly flooded emergent wetland, and saltgrass dominates at slightly higher elevations. The marsh is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County coastal plan. The university of California owns 120 acres which are part of the natural reserve system for teaching and research. The mouth is open to the ocean year around; the small inlet is stabilized with rip rap, and is occasionally dredged to increase flushing. This is an erosional area with limited sand. Harbor seals haul out on the sand beach near the mouth. Private residences occur along beaches on both sides of the mouth. Beaches east and west of the mouth are moderate sized and of fine to medium-grained sand and there is a subtidal reef offshore of the mouth (at Sand Point).

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

All year for birds and wetland biota. Jan. through June for Harbor seals pupping and breeding.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Wetland biota: 225 plant species, including Salt marsh bird's beak (restricted to high-marsh habitat); dominant plant species are pickleweed and saltgrass. Also 16 fish and numerous invertebrate species.

125 bird species: Waterfowl, Seabirds, Shorebirds, and Raptors, also Belding's savannah sparrow (generally in areas of the marsh less frequently inundated by tidal flows). Light-footed clapper rail was last seen in 1988.

Harbor seals (Mar-Jun) haul out, pup, and breed at the mouth.

Terrestrial mammals: 15 species: primarily raccoon, weasels and various rodents, also: skunks, foxes, opossums.

Pismo clams (Jun-Sep), Beach sand tiger beetle (inhabits higher clean sandy beaches in the Carpinteria area -- species of special concern)

Wetland biota at Paredon creek

Salt marsh bird's-beak.

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	Andrew Brooks Reserve Manager	Carpinteria Salt Marsh- UCSB	(805) 893-7670
O	Campus Police - Dispatch 24 Hr	UCSB	(805) 893-3447
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
C	Lynn Gambell Coordinator	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-7341
E	Clem Homer Private Citizen	Provides access to Sand Pt. Road (west marsh)	(805) 684-2649
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
E	Ron Sturgis Gatekeeper	Sandyland Entrance - Avenue del Mar (east access)	(805) 684-2304

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REFERENCES USED: 1. "CALIFORNIA COASTAL RESOURCE GUIDE" AND "CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACCESS GUIDE" BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION. 2. "INVENTORY OF COASTAL WETLANDS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY". INTERIM REPORT. BY: R. AMBROSE. 1993. 3. "STATUS OF FISHES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVES TO MAINTAIN THEIR EXISTENCE". BY: CAMM SWIFT, T. HAGLUND, M. RUIZ. 1990. 4 "COASTAL INLET PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE - VOL 1." BY: RESEARCH PLANNING INC. 1993.

4-685 -A Site Strategy - Carpinteria Marsh

County and Thomas Guide Location
998 A-C x 6-7 Santa Barbara

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

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Primary spill threat from marine source. The primary objectives are to exclude oil from saltmarsh, pre-clean debris, and clean oil from nearby beaches. A T/E bird nests in the wetland and T/E species forage in the lagoon. If oil enters the saltmarsh, animals and habitat can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities. If oil gets in, minimize disturbance in wetland; avoid trampling oil into sediments; minimize collateral oiling; 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 - Beware of trains at unregulated Railroad Crossings. On the narrow paved access road leading to the mouth of Carpinteria Salt Marsh, beware of vehicles pedestrians and animals. During response beware of waves, slips, trips and falls, and water hazards.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-685.1 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 an earthen 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 4-685.2 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 4-685.3 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 oiled 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
4-685.1	1000			1000	6			51	1 Front End Loader, 1 Roll Plastic, 3 Culvert Pipes, 20 Sand Bags, 12 Stakes (metal), 1 Stake Driver, 20ft Construction Fencing, 1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank, 1 Hand Tools	8	2
4-685.2		360		360			1	1	1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank OR Vacuum Truck	8	2
4-685.3								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.)

East Carpinteria Saltmarsh- Access the mouth of the marsh

Going northbound US 101, exit Santa Monica Rd/ #87 for 0.2 mi, turn right on Via Real for 0.2 mi, turn right on Santa Ynez Ave for 0.1 mi, turn right on Carpinteria Ave for 0.1 mi, turn left on Sandyland Cove Rd for 0.4 mi, turn right on Del Mar Ave and follow it until it ends.

Going southbound US 101, exit Carpinteria Ave/#87B for 0.6 mi, turn right Sandyland Cove Rd for 0.4 mi, turn right on Del Mar Ave and follow it until it ends. Contact Ron Sturgis 805 684-2304 at the gate.

West Carpinteria Saltmarsh- Access the mouth of the marsh

Going northbound US 101, exit Santa Claus Ln/ #88 for 0.3 mi, turn left on Padero Ln for >0.1 mi, turn left on Santa Claus

Ln for 0.6 mi, turn right on Sandpoint Rd just before the freeway on-ramp until it ends (past last house on right).
Going southbound US 101, exit Santa Claus Ln/ #88 for 0.8 mi, turn right on Sandpoint Rd just before the freeway on-ramp until it ends (past last house on right). Contact Clem and Mary Homer 805-684-2304 at the gate.

LAND ACCESS: Access for all vehicles and equipment in staging and operational areas during response.
Access to the salt marsh is by skiff. Beach access is limited to foot traffic only from this location.

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. Casitas Pier located just south of Carpinteria is operated by Venoco and may be used to load response vessels with permission from Venoco.

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

Equipment: at Clean Seas Yard only a few miles away. Staging area: At end of either access road, Sandyland Cove Rd. (SE side) is best. No facilities or utilities. Potential command post sites: In the nearby City of CARPINTERIA, or at Clean Seas.

Closest airport is in Santa Barbara.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Federal and State Emergency permits may be required as listed in ACP.
2. All cleanup operations in the general area should be conducted with the advice and cooperation of DFG, the UCSB Reserve Manager, and USFWS.
3. Air craft Restrictions: None known.

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

1FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX (ESI) MAPS: SOUTHERN CALIF ATLAS. RPI
2. CONTACT WAYNE FERREN - RESERVE MANAGER FOR CURRENT STUDIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

