

County: **Ventura**
 USGS Quad: **Ventura**

Thomas Guide Location
 491 A x 2
 NOAA Chart: **18725(a)**

Latitude N 34.27556
 Longitude W 119.30694

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION C: The Ventura river mouth and lagoon are relatively large and are considered important wildlife habitats for birds, wetland biota, and fishes (particularly Tidewater goby and steelhead trout). The mouth is open to the ocean much of the year but can be closed off by a sand berm during the dry season. A smaller, secondary mouth lies approx. 2 mile up coast (NW) but is usually only open during heavy rains. The shoreline at the river mouth consists of mixed cobble and boulder; the beaches to the east and west of the mouth are mixed sand and gravel in summer; primarily cobble underlain by sand in the winter. Moderate to large surf is common in winter. High use recreational swimming and surfing area. The river mouth is part of Emma Wood state beach. Seaside wilderness park is located NW of the mouth. Ventura county fairgrounds are located east of the river mouth.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Whenever the river is open (depending on flow) wetland biota, including several listed species (see below), are at risk.

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

Least Bell's vireo, numerous seabirds including brown pelicans; plus shorebirds, waterfowl and hawks. Western snowy plovers (Mar-Sep) nest along the beach between the main and secondary river mouths.

Terrestrial mammals, Western pond turtle, Silvery legless lizard and Red-legged frog.

Steelhead trout (one of the largest runs in southern california) - December through April when mouth is open.

Tidewater goby

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 the South Central Coastal Information Center (657) 278-5395.

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

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
E	Barbara Boester-Quaid	Ventura Fairgrounds (Access)	(805) 207-7878
T	Channel Coast Distict	California State Parks	(805) 585-1850
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
E	Pam Gallo Operations Supervisor	Ventura County Parks	(805) 654-3934
C	Stacy St. James Coordinator	South Central Coastal Information Center	(657) 278-5395
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
T	Mary Larson Fisheries Biologist	CDFW - (Steelhead)	(562) 537-8624
E	Jim Martinez Maintenance Supervisor	Ventura Co. Parks - Seaside Wilderness	(805) 377-8436
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
O	David Pereksta	BOEM (Shorebird Data)	(805) 389-7830
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969
O	Ventura Police Dispatch (24hrs)	City of Ventura	(805) 650-8010
O	Wastewater Plant (24-hr)	Ojai Valley Sanitary District	(805) 653-2940
E	Watershed Protection District	Ventura County	(805) 654-2001

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. PROPOSED "*WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER CRITICAL HABITAT". BY: USFWS - VENTURA FIELD OFFICE. 5. "COASTAL INLET PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE - VOLUME 1." RESEARCH PLANNING INC. 1993.

4-740 -A Site Strategy - Ventura River

County and Thomas Guide Location
491 A x 2 Ventura

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4-740 -A
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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threats from inland and marine sources. The primary objectives are to protect the stream and lagoon from oil, pre-clean debris, and if required, clean oil from shorelines. The lagoon is habitat for Threatened/Endangered (T/E) fishes year round. Several T/E birds inhabit the area. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in the stream, lagoon, and associated vegetation; 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 this area. Check with the County of Ventura, Ocean Monitoring Hotline, 805-662-6555, 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. Beach Safety Considerations - Beware of people and animals on the beach, pedestrians, waves, slips, trips and falls, and water hazards. Safe entries and exits from shorelines and facilities in and around the beach are related to tides, sea conditions, and beach sand levels. When using a vehicle on the beach, sand surface may be soft. **YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH** - Plan accordingly.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-740.1 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 4-740.2 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 4-740.3 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 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	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-740.1		1000		1000	6						194 1 Front End Loader, 1 Roll Plastic, 6 Culvert Pipes, 40 Sand Bags, 100 Stakes (metal), 3 Stake Driver, 40ft Construction Fencing, 1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank, 1 Hand Tools	7	2
4-740.2		1000		1000	8			1	1		208 1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank OR Vacuum Truck, 100 Stakes (metal), 2 Stake Driver, 1 ATV	7	2
4-740.3								1			103 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.)

Going southbound US 101, exit Ventura Ave #70A, turn right on Thompson Blvd for 0.2 mi, turn right on Figueroa St for 0.2 mi, continue on Perimeter Roadway for 0.2 mi, the parking lot is on the left side.

Going northbound US 101, exit California St #70A, turn left on California St, turn right on Harbor Blvd for 0.3 mi, turn left on Figueroa St, continue on Perimeter Roadway for 0.2 mi, the parking lot is on the left side.

Directions take you to the east side of the river, the fairgrounds and Seaside Park with large parking area. Walk west to the river mouth. **THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION C:**

LAND ACCESS: A. State Parks - 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 951-443-2944 (24 hour number).
B. The southeast side of the river mouth is accessible from the Shoreline Drive by means of a crane to lower equipment. Access to the beach and riverbed for vehicles and heavy equipment would require using heavy equipment to move k-rail and possible regrading of pathways. Beach access would be limited to lower tides.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: In the northern portion of the area, Santa Barbara Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Casitas Pier located just south of Carpinteria is operated by Venoco and may be used to load response vessels with permission from Venoco. From Seacliff south, contact Ventura Harbor for full service berthing, launching and fueling.

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

Access: Good equipment access (including heavy equipment) for dike construction, via Seaside Wilderness Park (APPROX.. 0.5 mile NW of river mouth). Good access for booming strategy from County Fair grounds (east of the mouth); excellent location for vac truck and staging.

Equipment: Clean Seas equipment at the UNOCAL tank farm, Ventura harbor; also Clean Seas Yard in Carpinteria, APPROX. 20 miles north.

Staging area: County Fair Grounds is large, adjacent to river, but has no facilities.??

Potential command post sites: Ventura County Fair Grounds.

Closest airports are in Oxnard, Camarillo, and Santa Barbara.

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.

